GAZETTEERS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU STATE

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

TAMIL NADU STATE

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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GAZETTEERS OF INDIA

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KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

EDITOR

M. GOPALAKRISHNAN, B.Com.,

1995

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FOREWORD

I am happy that the Gazetteer Unit of the Department of Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research has brought out a Gazetteer for the Kanniyakumari District of this State, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is the first Gazetteer being published for the district by the Government since its formation in 1956, though the area, which then formed part of **Trivandrum District of the erstwhile Travancore Native State** received coverage in the Nagam Aiya's Travancore State Manual (1906).

Gazetteers, now brought out by the State Governments of the Indian Union on various districts are not just 'Gazetteers' as defined in the dictionaries or lexicons. The scope of their contents has become wider and they are detailed encyclopaedia of the concerned districts capsuled into 19 chapters, chapterised so as to cover all details concerning the district.

Named after one of the chief places of tourist importance in the country and very particularly in the district, Kanniyakumari, the land's end of India where three seas confluence, the district has a chequered political, economic, cultural, religious, educational and social history. Along with these historical episodes, the implementation of the various welfare schemes of the State and

Central Governments, by the departments, in the district have also been dwelt with, based on the authentic records and sources. The development of the district in all directions, especially after Indian Independence, has been highlighted.

Preparation of Manuals, later Gazetteers, is a British legacy. The first Manual was printed in 1862 on Madurai District. Since then, though the work had been entrusted to various departments from time to time, suiting to the need of the circumstances, Gazetteers have been prepared for the districts. Gazetteers have been revised for some districts. As the Government felt it must bifurcate or trifurcate the British demarcated districts to make the Governmental schemes to reach the people in time and for other administrative convenience, new districts have been formed in Tamil Nadu and the Gazetteer Unit of the Department of Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research is engaged in preparing Gazetteers for the newly formed districts too.

I hope that this Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer, will cater to the informative needs of the administrators, scholars and the public.

13.1.95

13.01.1995

(Prof. K. PONNUSAMY)
Minister for Education
Government of Tamil Nadu.

INTRODUCTION

It gives me a great pleasure to bring out this Gazetteer on Kanniyakumari district which is the ninth in the post Independence series of District Gazetteers in the State. During my tenure of office as Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, I am associated with the preparation of two District Gazetteers, viz., the present one and the other being Dharmapuri District Gazetteer.

The position of the Editor is now being occupied by a Deputy Collector and the present incumbent is Thiru M. Gopalakrishnan, Deputy Collector. When he took charge of the post of Editor- Gazetteers, the preparation of Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer had just made the beginning. With his enthusiasm, inspiration and dedicated hard work, he hastened the progress and the compilation work had been completed within 10 months. It is astonishing to see such a fast progress for which I should compliment the Editor and the team of Assistant Editors whose unstinted hard work, active co-operation, devotion to duty and perseverance paved way for this achievement.

I feel that this Gazetteer differs in several respects from those published earlier as it possesses novel features such as graphical, pictorial and diagramatic representations of facts and figures. For this, I owe my gratitude to the Director of Statistics, who readily rendered the services of his staff for the preparation of the graphs and charts. Though statistical informations have been furnished up to 1988-89, the graphical expressions could be given only up to 1984-85, 1985-86 or 1986-87 as the case may be, since we were able to collect up to date data from various Heads of Departments, in a period ranging from two to three months, after handing over the data to the Department of Statistics for preparing graphs, charts, etc., Much strain was taken to gather rare photographs for preservation in the gazetteer. Enough care was taken to incorporate latest materials available. One of the salient features in the communication network here is the local radio station which is basically utility service oriented and different from the regional network of Radio stations and first of its kind in the country. A few special studies conducted and the incorporation of these reports are additional features.

At every stage of the prepartion and finalisation of the Gazetteer, the Editor had consulted me and carried out my suggestions, and every chapter, on completion was approved by me.

The Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer is born out of good team work involving the Editor and his band of Assistant Editors. I am elated to know that the Editor has adhered to the tight time schedule and the fastest completion of this work inspires us to complete the rest of the unfinished gazetteers for other districts within a very short span. Albeit difficulties that are bound to arise in course of such a research work, I hope that the other districts will have their gazetteers very soon. I assure that speed will be the prime objective, without sacrificing the quality.

S.RANGAMANI

Commissioner of Archives
and Historical Research

Tamilnadu Archives,
Madras – 8.
Date, 3 March 1989.

PREFACE

We owe it to the British administrators for having realised the importance of Gazetteers early. The East India Gazetteer authored by Hamilton was the first, published in 1815. To this was added the Imperial Gazetteer of India in 1881 by W.W. Hunter, which is the best among the Gazetteers published. A 'Gazetteer' though defined by dictionaries as a Geographical dictionary', has undergone a conceptual amplification and is now considered an exhaustive account of the areas concerned. It is expected to be of help to administrators, general public and researchers. The Gazetteers are treated as essentially inter-disciplinary and multi-purpose books.

The history of Gazetteer in Tamil Nadu could be traced back to 1868, when the Madurai Manual was first published. The District Manuals were later brought out as District Gazetteers, and the first District Gazetteers published were in 1906 on Madurai and South Arcot Districts. The post Independence era found the publication of the first Gazetteer in 1957 which was on Thanjavur District. After this, six more District Gazetteers were published and the Gazetteer for Dharmapuri District is under print. The present one is for Kanniyakumari District, published for the first time, since its formation on 1November 1956.

" I am writing this at the Cape, in front of the sea where three waters meet, and furnish a sight unequalled in the world, for this is no port of call for vessels. Like the Goddess, the waters around are virgin".

This is the observation of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, when he visited this land's end of India on 15th January 1937. His observation finds place in the Gazetteer, as it is an objective of Gazetteers to highlight the importance of a place and how it attracts people all over the world.

Sangam Literature says that the land's end of India was still farther south (i.e.) Kapatapuram, the seat of First Tamil Sangam. Owing to the engulfing of the seas around, the land eroded to the present position.

Tamil literature corroborates that the land which lies between Thiruppathi hills and Cape Comerin is the Tamil speaking area.

During Sangam Age, the Tamil speaking lands were under the sceptres of the Tamil 'Tripods' (i.e.) Cheras, Cholas and the Pandyas.

Entire district of the present Kanniyakumari, including the Kerala State was the domain of the Chera Kings of whom Cheran Senguttuvan was the most celebrated king. The Cheras were succeeded by the Ayis, Pandyas, Cholas, Nayaks and Venad Kings. It is worth mentoining that it was under the monarchical rule even after Independence and later, the King of Travancore acceded to merge his province with the Indian Union, when the Travanocre-Cochin State came into being. But, the predominantly Tamil speaking people of the State (South Travancore), wanted to have their area merged with the erstwhile Madras State and they achieved the goal successfully, after valient struggle.

The States Reorganisation Act, 1956, (Act XXXVII of 1956) created the district of Kanniyakumari, after the name of the Virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari. While preparing this Gazetteer, care was taken not to stray from the Guidelines prescribed by the Govt. of India for the preparation of Gazetteer.

The areas that came under Kanniyakumari now, were therefore, covered by the Travancore State Manuals since they were for a very long time, with the Travancore State. The traces of influence of the culture of the neighbouring Kerala State are still to be seen here. Therefore, the preparation of the Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer needed extra care, especially when we dealt with the chapters on "People" and "Education".

The Chapters on "Economic Trends" and "Miscellaneous Occupations" have been clubbed together in accordance with the provision made by the Guidelines formulated by the Government of India, for the prepartion of District Gazetteer.

The culture of the people of Kanniyakumari is akin to that of the people of Kerala and educationally the literacy rate of that people is high, when compared with the rest of the districts of the State. (63.85 per cent as against the State's per centage of 46.76). Every endeavour has been made to make this book interesting reading and even the minute details have not been neglected. No effort has been spared to make this a book

of great utility for research on several aspects of the Kanniyakumari District.

The earliest part of this work, was started by Dr. K.D. Swaminathan, and was followed by his successors but progress was hampered due to unavoidable reasons. Later, the preliminary work for the prepartion of Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer was initiated by my predecessor, Thiru P.Pulney Andy Senji, and this was continued by me, from March 1988. One of the interesting features of Kanniyakumari District is the linguistic peculiarities of local dialect. Hence, a special survey was conducted on this and incorported in the Chapter on "People". Added to this, is the "Folklore Survey of the Kanniyakumari District." For these two studies, I am grateful to Dr. S. Agesthialingom, formerly the Professor of Linguistics, Annamalai University and now the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University, Thanjavur, and the team of linguists, who assisted him.

My profound thanks are also due to Thiru Syed Munir Hoda, IAS., the former Collector of Kanniyakumari district and his successor Thiru. N. Sundara Devan, IAS., for helping us in securing all the data that were required.

Dr. S. Padmanabhan of Nagercoil was a source of inspiration to the Gazetteer staff, whose help at every possible instance deserves mention.

I owe my gratitude to the Director of Statistics, who readily rendered the services of his staff for the preparation of the graphs and charts. Though statistical information have been furnished upto 1988-89, the graphical expressions could be given only upto 1984-85, 1985-86 or 1986-87, as the case may be, since we were able to collect up to date data from various heads of departments, in a period ranging from two to three months, after handing over of the data to the Department of Statistics for preparing graphs, charts, etc.,

I acknowledge my thanks to the various Heads of Departments, government Undertakings, Head of offices in the district, various agencies, Central Government organisations and scholars in the district who extended their cooperation by providing us necessary materials.

I should specifically mention here my staff members Thiruvalargal K.S. Venkatraman, K.S.K. Velmani, R.Sinnakani, Tmt. V. Manmathavalli and Thiru N.Govindaraju, (Assistant Editors). Tmt. Grace Hepsi Bai and

Thiru. T. Srinivasa Row, (Office Superintendents), Tmt. S. VIjayalakshmi and Thiruvalargal S. Balakrishnan and M.P. Raghunathan (Assistants) Tmt. R.Vasantha, Personal Assistant, Thiru. M.S. Raghavan, Steno-typist and Thiru. R. Chandrasekaran, Senior Reader and Selvi P. Geetha, Copy Holder, without whose cooperation, I could not have succeeded in completing this book, within such a short period.

As far as possible, this book has been updated and every area covered. Yet, a few aspects might have been missed,or left unnoticed. Hence, we welcome every suggestion and comment on this book as they would help us improve the standard of our future publications.

M. GOPALAKRISHNAN
Editor

Tamil Nadu Archives,
Egmore, Madras-8.
Date 21 May 1990

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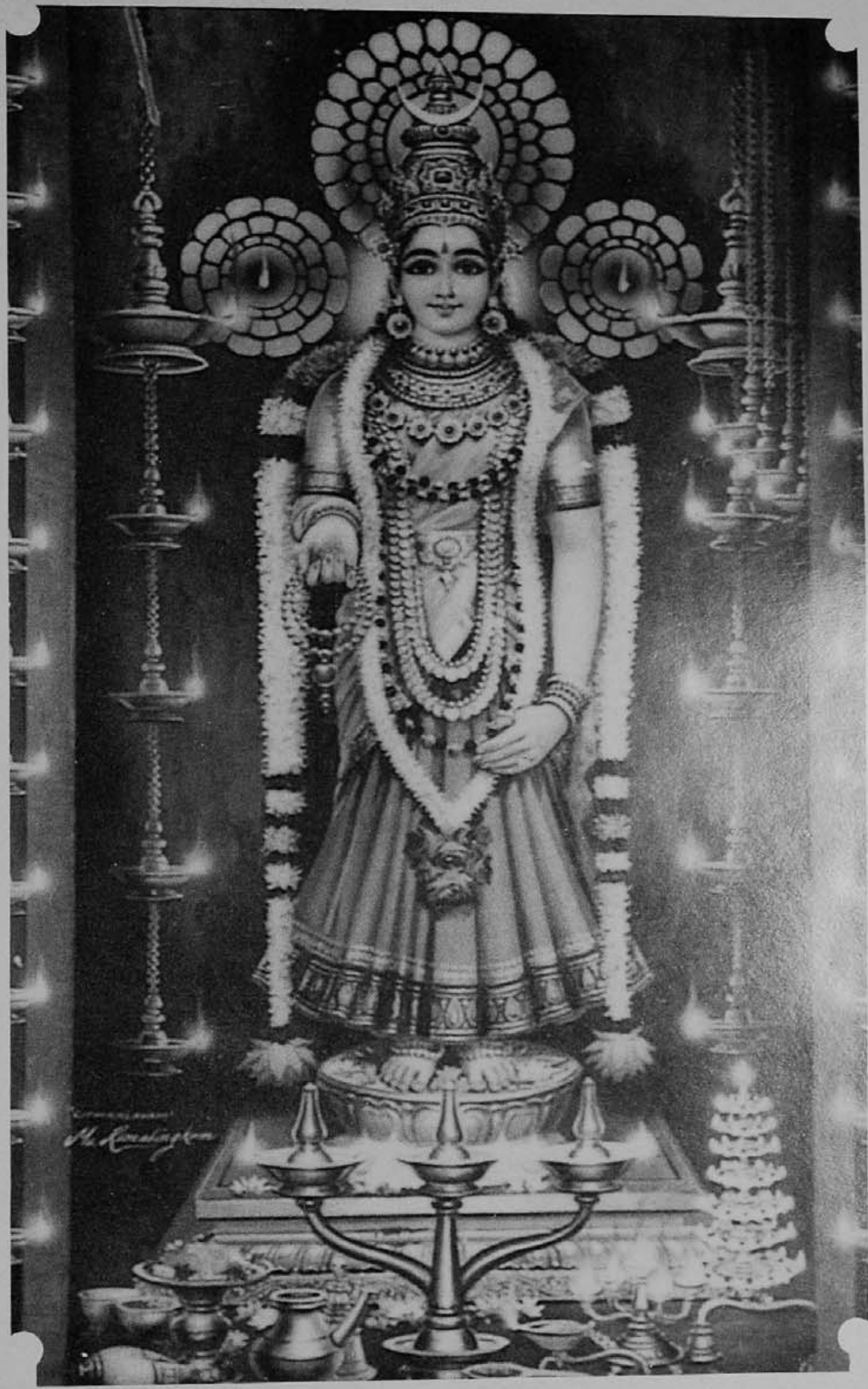
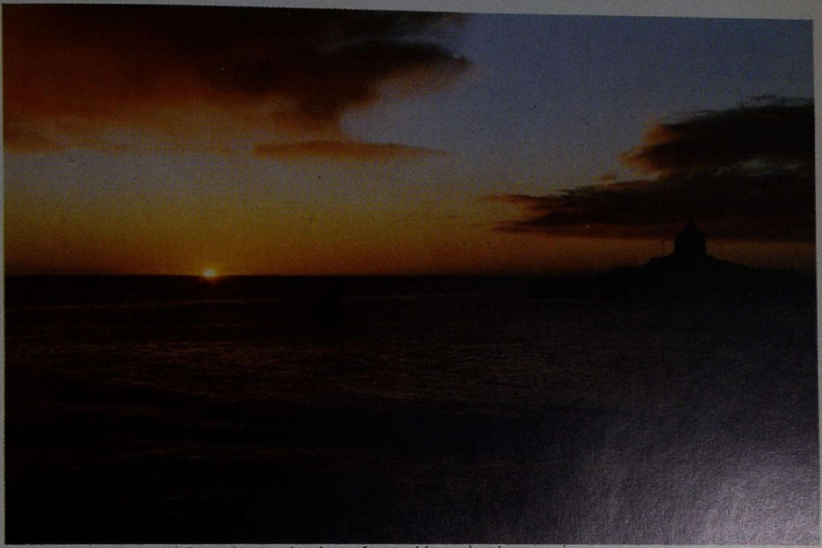


Devi Kanniyakumari

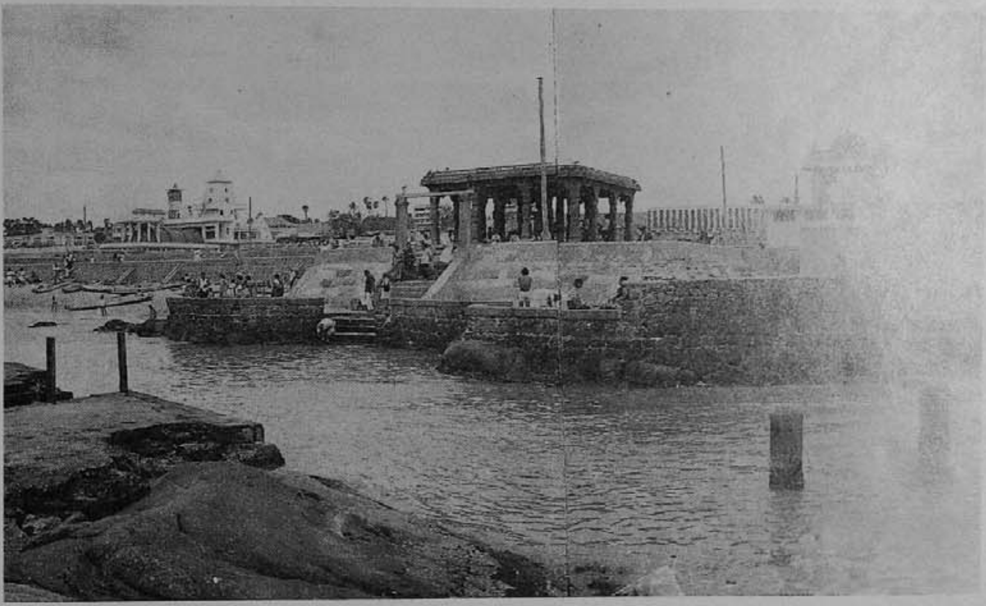
Vivekananda Rock, Kanniyakumari



Sunrise - A view from Kanniyakumari

Sunset - A view from Kanniyakumari

Cape - Aerial View



Confluence of three seas, Kanniyakumari

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT GAZETTEER

CHAPTER – I

GENERAL

Nature seems to be at its best in Kanniyakumari district. Interspersed with sea-shores, plains, hills and dales and peaks, the district is entirely free from monotony in appearance. The old Arcadian charm tenaciously lingers, despite the onslaught of urbanization, in some places amazingly intact.

The panorama of the district, available to one from the cliffs of slight elevation, not far away from the low and sandy sea-coast, beggars description. Azure sky with its whimsical drawings, merging with blue sea to form a distant horizon; the water-spread of the sea in numerous shades of black and blue, with lines and patches of white surf washing the shore; haze reflection of sun light in blue water and yellow sand; serried coconut trees; extensive verdant plains punctuated by intermittant habitations; pagodas with quadrangular slanting roofs and cupola-shaped shrines ; tall church towers ; large trees with pepper vines clinging to them; black-topped roads; vehicles moving with a deceptive sluggishness; streams meandering through green vegetation on both sides; merrily fluttering colourful birds, giving sounds ranging from feeble murmur to nerve-wrecking shrieks; a riviera unfolds itself before the viewer and gluts his eyes and mind with its bounteous, surrealistic beauty of the district. Not without reason Lord Connemera called[1] this region 'a fairy land'.

Origin of name of the district : The district has derived its name, from the township Kanniyakumari, also known as the Cape Comorin. This is the southern extremity of India, beyond which there are only two rocks; one housing the famous Vivekananda Memorial now. The township has been named after the Goddess *Kanniyakumari* to whom the temple is dedicated.

Location, general boundaries, total area and population : Kanniyakumari is the southernmost district of Tamil Nadu. The district lies between 77°05' and 77°36' of the eastern longitudes and 8°03' and 8°35' of the northern latitudes.

The district is bounded by Tirunelveli district on the north and the east. The south-eastern boundary is the Gulf of Mannar. On the south and south-west, the boundaries are the Indian Ocean and the Arabian sea. On the West and North-west it is bounded by Kerala.

The area of Tamil Nadu is 130,058 sq.kms. Of this, Kanniyakumari district occupies 1684 sq.kms. i.e. 1.29% of the total extent of Tamil Nadu.

The population of the district is, according to the 1981 Census, 1,423,399, of which 7,16,958 (50.4%) are males and 7,06,441 (49.6%) are females.

The history of the district as an administrative unit and the changes in its component parts : The area comprising the present Kanniyakumari district was a part of the erstwhile Travancore State. During the reign of Maharaja Rama Varma (1758- 1798 AD), there were three revenue divisions in Travancore State, Viz., *Vedakkemukkom, Patinjaremukkom* and *Tekkemukkom* and the present Kanniyakumari district area formed part of *Tekkemukkom.*

In 1835, when the state was divided into northern and southern divisions, this area formed part of southern division and was placed in the charge of Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam. Subsequently, another division of Trivandrum was formed in which the Kanniyakumari region stood included. In July 1949, when the United State of Travancore and Cochin was inaugurated, the present Kanniyakumari District area continued to be a part of Trivandrum district of Kerala State.

The people of Agasthiswaram, Thovala, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, which formed the southern divisions of the former Trivandrum district, were predominantly Tamil speaking. They agitated for the merger of this area with Madras State. The States Reorganisation Commission also recommended this.[2] Accordingly, the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 was passed and the Kanniyakumari district was formed on 1 November 1956, with the four taluks, Viz., Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode and merged with Tamil Nadu.

Sub-divisions, taluks : The district has been divided into two divisions consisting of two taluks each, viz., Padmanabhapuram revenue division consisting of Vilavancode and Kalkulam and the Nagercoil revenue division consisting of Agasthiswaram and Thovalai.

A Coconut Grove - Thirupparappu

Topography : With prominent natural features, richly varied and somewhat crowded, Kanniyakumari district commands an impressive topography. Majestic hills, with undulating surroundings and the plains bordered by colourful sea-shores in many places are so closely interwoven with churches and other edifices. Plantations and fields,- the proof of human intervention, happily blend to cause in the viewer's mind, a perception of an ineffable natural beauty and vigour of human life.

Natural divisions, elevation, configuration, etc. : The shape of the district may, perhaps, approximate a rhombus, though all its sides are full of turns and curves. The promontory of Kanniyakumari is the south-west point of the district. The sea-shore, which is the southern border of this district, runs north-west from this point. Its somewhat general course in this direction, becomes more marked beyond Kadiapattanam. This border of the district extends for about two kilometres beyond Nirodithura. From here, the western border proceeds in a north-east direction and reaches the reserved forest area drained by Valachi Todu. Again, the northern border of the district is slanting in a south-eastern direction well beyond Mahendragiri hill. From here, the eastern border runs in a southern direction, touches the shore of Gulf of Mannar in north of Allvilakudiyiruppu and continues towards Kanniyakumari.

The district may be divided into three natural divisions as :

(1) A mountainous terrain which is the north-eastern portion of the district. It includes the northern parts of Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks. This terrain has a number of admirable hill-tops and it is the continuation of a loftier and broader mountain range in the north.

(2) The natural division which is the fertile sea-coast on the South-eastern, southern and south-western parts of the district. Fringed with coconut trees, this low land is sandy, though here and there are a few slightly elevated patches of red cliffs.

and (3) The division consisting of the undulating valleys and the plains between the mountainous terrain and the sea-coast. Also there are a few streams in this region.

In general the district slopes gently towards the west.

Hills, mountain system to which they belong, main peaks, height, situation, vegetation, etc : In the northern mountainous range of the district, is situated the beautiful sanitarium of *Muthukuzhivayal* (1314 ms). South of Peermedu, only here the range is of any significant breadth. As Nagam Aiya Says,[3]

> For the remaining part of its length, the great range becomes a mere ridge sloping down on either side and running north-north-west and south-south-east at an elevation of about 4000 feet with isolated peaks.

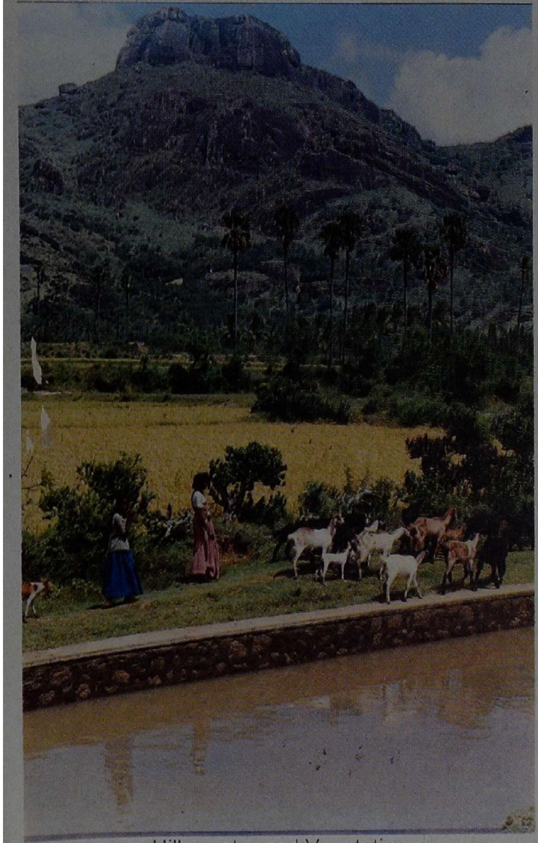
It is a little difficult to accept this series of almost parallel ridges and valleys, as belonging to the Western Ghauts about which Nagam Aiya proudly mentions :[4]

> What the Himalaya mountains are to the Indian continent, that the Western Ghauts are to Travancore.

Nevertheless the agglomeration of bluff ridges and conical peaks forms a tail of the Sahyadri Range of the Western Ghauts, which terminate only at *Aralvoimozhi* Pass. South of this rises a fine rocky mass, the perfectly detached *Kattadimalai* (808m.). From here a broken rocky spur extends southwards and shapes into *Marutuvamalai* (370m.) about seven kms. north-west of Kanniyakumari. The Velimalai in Kalkulam taluk and the *Marutuvamalai* in Agastiswaram taluk are important isolated hills. Another hill worth mentioning is *Kalmalai* (900 m.) in the north-western part of the district. *Moliyadi* (700m.) is at the head of old Kulasekaram reserved forest area in Kalkulam taluk. *Tadakamalai* (960m.) is in Thovala taluk, south of Tadakamalai reserved forests. *Maruthathoor* G.T.S. (956 m.) is in the border of Thovala and *Kalkulam* taluks, south of Velimalai reserved forests.

The differences in altitude and climate of the hilly tract of the district have made the vegetation of this area greatly varied with characteristic representation of different types of land. The highest hill in the district is *Mahendragiri* (1654 m.) in Thovala taluk on the border of Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. The tradition holds that Hanuman took off to Lanka through sky by jumping from this peak.

Aralvoimozhi is the most important pass through which the trunk road from Tirunelveli to Nagercoil enters into this district from east.



Hills, water and Vegetation -
A scene in the District,

Hills, water - another view

Plateaus and Plains : The mountainous terrain in the northern and eastern portion of the district has in it a vast plateau land in the midst of elevated hill tops. Though the slopes of the hills are generally precipitous, some of them are spread out. There are a number of plantations in this region.

The middle part of the district, particularly most of Agastiswaram taluk, is plain land, suitable for cultivation. In fact, the traditional name of the taluks of Agastiswaram and Thovala, is *Nanjil Nadu;* and the word *Nanjil* stands for plough.

Sea Coast : The district has a sea-coast of 68 kms. For the most part the coast line is regular. *Kanniyakumari, Muttam* and *Erayanthurai* are the places where we can see projections towards the sea. There are a few minor sea-ports.

The ancient port of Colachel is the only natural port on the west coast in Tamil Nadu. Kanniyakumari is another minor port of the district and it serves mainly tourists. There is a village port at *Manakudi*, seven kms. to the west of Kanniyakumari on the edge of the Manakudi lake. *Kadiapattanam* is almost on the middle of the southern border, about five kms. north-east from the off shore rock called Crocodile Rock.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES : The high-flown praise of the river system of Travancore state showered by Nagam Aiya[5] needs to be cut down severely, when we talk about Kanniyakumari district only. But the *Paraliyar*, the Kodayar and the *Pazhayar*, supplemented by a number of minor streams, serve the district so well that water supply in the district remains more than satisfactory. This network includes a number of tanks and lakes also, thereby minimising escape of water to sea.

Main rivers and tributaries : The *Pazhayar* is the southern-most river of India. The word *Pazhayar* means 'old river' in Tamil. The tradition holds[6] that when *Indra* built the temple at Sucindram, under his directions, his elephant *Iravadham* dug a river specially for the temple, with its tusk. So this river is called *Dantanadi* (*dant* means tusk and *nadi* means river). This is also called *Vadasseri* river.

A number of streams rise from the secondary range of *Sahyadri* and join one another to form the *Pazhayar.* They drain the *Mahendragiri* peak and nearby estates and flow through the taluks of Thovalai and Agastiswaram. This river helps irrigation in these taluks to a great extent. It runs a course of about 37 kms. towards south and south-east and merges with Manakudy estuary. Important places through which the *Pazhayar* passes are Bhoothapandi, Thazhakkudi, Vadasseri, Nagercoil and Sucindram.

The *Kodayar* rises in Moolautchy mountains, in the southern part of the *Muthukuzhivayal plateau.* First, it runs in south-western direction through a wild tract. Two streams, one from Motavan Potha and the other from Thacchamala hills, join this river. With rocky bed, precipitous banks, sharp curves and frequent falls, the *Kodayar* is generally untamed except for a few kilometres in the end. The waterfall of this river at *Tiruparappu* is about 13 m. high. There is a very ancient *Siva* temple here. After running a course of 32 kms. in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, the *Kodayar* joins the *Paraliyar* to form the western *Tambaraparani.*

The *Paraliyar* rises in the mountains north of Mahendragiri[7] and flows generally in the south, south-westerly direction through Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. Near Ponmana, it is intercepted by Perunchani dam. It receives water from Pechipparai reservoir through the Left Bank Channel, before the weir called *Puthen* dam.

Even during the times of the *Pandyas,* the *Paraliyar* has been used for irrigation in *Nanjil Nadu.* The Pandyan dam across the Paraliyar in Kalkulam taluk, the *Pandyan Kal* and allied irrigation works built about a thousand years ago are considered standing monuments of the engineering skill of our ancient people. [8] About a kilometre lower down the *Pandyan* dam, the *Puthen* dam and the Padmanabhapuram Puthen Channel were built in C.1750 AD. After running a course of 37 kms. the *Paraliyar* joins the *Kodayar* near Thiruvattar and forms the western *Tambaraparani.*

The western *Tambaraparani*, also known as the *Kuzhithurai Aru*, is formed near Thiruvattar by the merger of the *Paraliyar* and the *Kodayar*. It flows generally in south-westerly direction and joins the sea at Thengapattanam. Thiruvattar, Kuzhithurai and Munchirai are the important places on its banks.

The *Mullayar* in Vilavancode taluk is a stream flowing for about 11 kms. through Kaliel, Edaicode and Pacode. It joins the western Tambraparani near Thikkurichi.

The *Valliyar* is a small river, 16 kms. long. It rises in the Velimalai hills, passes through Kothanallur, Kalkulam, Eraniel, Thalakulam, Manavalakkurichi and Kadiapattanam and joins the Arabian sea. On the way, it is joined by the *Thuvalar,* another small river coming from the Mampazhathurai hills.

A canal of about 24 kms. has been dug connecting the *Neyyar* in Neyyatinkara taluk of Trivandrum district and Colachel in Agastiswaram taluk. About 16 kms. of this canal is in this district.

Lakes and tanks : The *Paraliyar* forms a lagoon called *Manakkudy Kayal* on Manakkudy lake, before joining the sea. This is also called *Thamaraikulam.*

The estuary of the Kuzhithurai river in Vilavancode taluk is called Thengapattanam lake.

An artificial fresh water lake has been formed at Pechiparai by the construction of the Kodayar dam. This has a water spread of about 13 sq.kms. and is used for irrigation.

Another artificial lake formed by the Perunchani dam has a waterspread of about nine sq.kms.

The earthern dam across the Mukkudal valley has formed a reservoir called *Mukkudal Eri,* which supplies drinking water to Nagercoil.

There are 2593 tanks in the district, both rainfed and channel fed. In the Kodayar system alone, there are 933 tanks.

Groundwater resources : There are 125 tubewells in the district used for irrigation. The irrigation in the district is also supplemented by 996 wells. In addition, there are 15026 wells used for domestic purposes only.[9]

Hydrogeology : The hydrogeological condition of the rock type may vary, depending upon the texture of the rock type and tectonic condition of the terrain. The existing groundwater condition in different rock types are furnished below. To study the behaviours of the water table 25 shallow observation wells have been established and monthly water levels are being observed. These data are available since 1973. The water level fluctuation recorded in these wells are indicative of effect of recharge by various components like rainfall, irrigated water etc. It also helps to assess the gravity of situation during adverse seasonal conditions. The hydrogeologic condition in different rock types are discussed hereunder. The tertiary formation and the sub-recent sediments are occupying only small areas. Hence, they have not been considered for large scale development of groundwater. However, limited quantity can be developed for domestic purposes.

Hydrogeological condition of the area occupied by charnokite formation : The area occupied by the charnockite formations are Agasthiswaram, Rajakkamangalam blocks and southern part of Thovalai block. In this region the occurrence of groundwater is restricted to the top weathered and jointed portion. The weathered thickness in charnockite rock extends to a depth of 10m. During winter, the depth of water ranges from 2.6m. to 26.2m. and during summer the depth of water ranges from 12.00m.to 29.00m. (the wide variation in water table condition is due to rolling topography of the region). Normally large diameter dug wells are feasible in this region and each well is capable of yielding about 200 lpm (litre per minute) and can irrigate about 1 to 1.5 hectares.

Groundwater condition of the area occupied by gneissic formation : The areas covered by gneissic formations are Kurunthankodu, Thiruvettar, Thakkalai, northern part of Thovalai, Killiyur, Melpuram and Munchirai blocks. In gneissic formation the occurrence of groundwater is restricted to the top weathered and jointed and fissured portion.The weathered and jointed formations extend to a depth of 10m. to 21m. Depending upon topography here the winter water level ranges from 2.00m. to 27.75m. below ground level and during summer, the water level goes below 5m. and 28m. from ground level. Generally large

diameter dug wells are feasible in these blocks to a maximum depth of 29m. and each well is capable of yielding 200 to 250 lpm. which can irrigate about 1 to 1.5 hectares.

Quality of Groundwater in Kanniyakumari District : The quality of water is generally within permissible limits in Melpuram, Munchirai, Killiyur, Thiruvattar, Thakkalai, Kurunthankodu and western parts of Rajakkamangalam blocks (Electrical conductivity value is less than 1000 micromhos). In the eastern part of Rajakkamangalam, Agastiswaram and eastern part of Thovalai the quality of groundwater is marginal (electrical conductivity value ranges from 2250-3000 Micromhos/cm at 25^0C). The quality of groundwater is poor especially during summer along the stretch extending from central Agastiswaram block upto eastern part of Thovalai block. This may be due to the presence of Kankar. Excess sulphate and nitrate concentration have been observed in Groundwater of Mondaymarket, Aralvoimozhi, Mylaudi and Thadikarankonam areas.

Estimation of Groundwater potential : The groundwater potential of all blocks have been worked out based on the micro level survey conducted by groundwater wing of PWD. Depending upon the level of groundwater extraction, all the 9 blocks of Kanniyakumari have been categorised as white where the level of groundwater extraction is less than 65 per cent of annual recharge. Hence implementation of further minor irrigation schemes are feasible in all the blocks of Kanniyakumari district.

Consultancy Services : To minimise the well failure and to avoid infractuous expenditure, necessary technical guidance is being given to various Government, *quasi* governmental organisations, private agencies, agriculturists and general public for a nominal fee. Technical advice is given for selecting/digging/drilling sites after conducting geological, geohydrological and geophysical studies.

Watershed studies : An elementary watershed with facility to measure runoff and observe meteorological parameters has been installed at Aralvoimozhi in this district. In the meteorological observatory. meteorological observations such as temperature, wind velocity, runoff, rainfall, sunshine hours etc. are being observed. Daily and monthly reports after compilation of the data observed are prepared and inferences like maximum rainfall, temperature etc. are made.

In addition to this, Runoff due to rainfall is also observed and rainfall-runoff relationship to groundwater is studied.

The Groundwater Wing of Public Works Department has been carrying out detailed systematic investigations in Kanniyakumari district from 1971 onwards. The multi disciplinary data like hydrology, hydrogeology, meteorology, geophysics are collected and compiled. Based on the detailed micro level survey conducted, groundwater potential of all the nine blocks were arrived which helps to implement further minor irrigation programme utilising groundwater. Moreover, Kanniyakumari district is bounded on the east, south and west by sea coast. On the coastal tract, deterioration of groundwater by saline intrusion is possible due to indiscriminate groundwater extractions. This aspect is being studied in detail in order to demarcate salt water fresh water interface.The consultancy service offered by Groundwater Wing of P.W.D. is helpful to identify favourable locations for dug-wells and borewells. The Groundwater Wing of P.W.D. can also help the organisations engaged in groundwater exploitation to formulate schemes in Kanniyakumari district, utilising the data collected and expertise gained.

GEOLOGY

The district's characteristic variety is markedly seen in its geology also. The Tamil literature classifies land into five categories, namely, *Kurinji* (hilly tract), *Mullai* (Forest), *Marudam* (agricultural land), *Neidal* (sea-shore) and *Palai* (desert). In Tamil Nadu, there is no *Palai* but *Kurinji* and *Mullai* sometimes acquire the qualities of *Palai,* due to scarcity of water. So, main varieties of land are only four, all of which are available in Kanniyakumari district. The northern and western parts of the district are hilly tracts and forests. In the south-eastern and middle parts, we have agricultural land, traditionally known as the *Nanjil Nadu* (the land of plough). The southern border of the district is a long sea-shore. The highest point of the district is *Mahendragiri* (1654 m.) and the altitude varies very frequently with perhaps the only exception of the plains in Agastiswaram and Thovala taluks. The district is full of scatterd rocky ridges, interrupted by valleys and plains and is bordered beautifully in south by sandy beaches and isolated boulders.

Geological antiquity : The South Indian Peninsula is usually described as a "Horst" i.e. a highland with both the sides faulted. The eastern coast seems to have been faulted during the earliest geological period called *Archaean* times. After this, however, a number of sedimentary formations have been formed by numerous transgressions and regressions of the sea.

The story of the western coast is different. Interestingly enough-in the context of the legend that Parasurama reclaimed this land from sea-the faulting of the western coast including Kanniyakumari district has occurred later, during the early *Miocene* times, i.e. roughly 25 million years ago. Subsequent to the faulting, the sea should have transgressed in, as evidenced by marine sedimentary formations in parts of the west coast. But later on, the sea has receded, with concomitant uplift of the land mass. The deeply entrenched and relatively youthful streams, waterfalls, high hanging valleys, alluvial flats and patches of marine sediment at high elevations, and the presence of elevated seacliffs near Colachel and Sucindram bear testimony to the uplift of the land mass. The shelly lime stones found at Kanniyakumari strengthen this theory of uplift of land mass in this area. Nagam Aiya has quoted the following observations of Bruce Foote:[10]

> At Cape Comorin and two other places along the coast to the northward are formations of small extent but very considerable interest, which, by their mineral constitution and by the abundance of fossil marine shells they enclose, show themselves to be of marine origin and thus prove that the coast line of the Peninsula has undergone some upheavel since they were deposited.

The uplift which possibly happened in stages has rejuvenated older streams. An example of wind gap resulting from river piracy is provided by a gap at Mekkode. The capture of the Paraliyar by the Kodayar probably in Tertiary times has caused this.[11]

Geological formation : The rock formations of Archaean age fall under two groups viz., the Khondalites represented by the Garnetiferous sillimanite- graphite gneisses, and garnet biotite gneisses which occupies a major part of the district; and the Charnockites which are exposed in the areas included between Radhapuram, Aramboli, Kulasekaram, Thuckalai and Rajakkamangalam. The charnockites also occur as lenses

and patches within the khondalites. The khondalites have also intruded by thin pegmatite bodies and quartz veins.

Warkala beds of Tertiary age are exposed as thin cappings southwest of Kuzhithurai near the Coast. The coast belt near Kanniyakumari, Kovakulam, Lipuram, Vattakottai etc. contain formations of Sub-Recent Age, viz., the calcareous sandstones, shell and Kankary Limestone.

Mineral Wealth : The principal mining activity in the district is noted for heavy mineral placers concentrated on the sea coast by wave action, carrying ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite, garnet, sillimanite and silica as mineral sands. Barring the heavy mineral sands, other occurrences of mica, graphite, clay, limestone and kankar are minor in nature. An isolated occurrences of sulphide mineralisation with basemetal like copper and nickel and traces of molybdenum, and cobalt and gemstones like chrysoberyl and aquamarine associated with the pegmatite and pebble beds require further investigation.

Heavy Mineral Sands : The beach sands over a stretch of 6 kms. from the mouth of the *Valliyar* to Colachel in Manavalakkurichi and a little beyond in the district contain heavy minerals like ilmenite, rutile, zircon, garnet, monazite sillimanite and magnetite with minor percentages of leucoxene. The principal concentrations are ilmenite - 45 to 55% garnet- 7 to 14% zircon - 4 to 6% monazite - 3 to 4% rutile - 2 to 3 % and sillimanite - 2 to 3 %.

The Indian Rare Earths Limited, a Government of India undertaking, is engaged in mining and processing of the heavy mineral sands of Manavalakkurichi. Mining is being done by manual methods and by dredging, while processing of the sun-dried sand is done by electro-magnetic and electrostatic separation. The Indian Rare Earths Limited has set up a processing plant at Manavalakkurichi with an annual capacity for the production of 65,000 tonnes of ilmenite, 1500 tonnes of rutile; 5000 tonnes of zircon; 3500 tonnes of monozite and 4500 tonnes of garnet. A wet concentration plant has been set up at Manavalakkurichi with Australian technical know-how to enrich the heavy mineral content from 50 to 95%. Mechanical dredging is also resorted to excavate about 1200 tonnes of beach sands daily and to produce 600 tonnes of heavy mineral concentrates.

The estimated reserves of different mineral fractions are as under :

Ilemenite	4.70	Million tonnes
Rutile	0.08	"
Garnet-	0.13	"
Zircon	0.15	"

The monozite, a phospate of the rare earth cerium , with thorium oxide is being processed at Trombay Atomic Plant for the manufacture of rare earth oxides and nitrates. Ilmenite, rutile and zircon are being used for internal consumption and also exported. Garnet is also exported against specific demand.

Metallic Sulphides : Sulphide mineralisation, carrying copper nickel with traces of molybdenum, bismuth and cobalt is found within pyroxene granulite and along the contact with the gneisses in Mangamalai, 1.5 kms. south west of Arumanallur in Thovala taluk . The sulphide mineralisation is traceable as a gessan capping measuring 100 metres by 10 metres. The ore body is prinicipally of pyrrhotite (iron sulphide) along with other sulphides of copper (chalcopyrite and bornite) and molybdenite (Mos). Detailed investigations have indicated that the ore carries 1% copper, 0.6% Nickel and traces of molybdenum, bismuth and cobalt. Since the exposed extent of mineralisation is meagre, the occurrence appears to be uneconomical for commercial mining and winning of the metalllic ores.

Shell and kankary limestones : Along the coast, east of Kovakulam to Kanagappapuram, in Agastheeswaram taluk, occurrences of shell and kankary limestones have been recorded with the average thickness ranging from 0.35 metre to about 2.5 metres.The different patches are located (i) east of Kovakulam (ii) Cape Comorin (iii) Lipuram Kalvilaikudiyiruppu (iv) Krishnanpudur (v) Vatta Kottai and (vi) Southwest of Kanagappapuram. The total reserves for all the occurrences are estimated at 2.43 million tonnes. However, the limestones are highly siliceous with silicon content ranging from 10.93 per cent to as high as 43.3 per cent. The Cao content is less than 40 per cent. As such these limestones can be used only for producing burnt-lime for local use. Mining of limestones in these areas may not be possible as they are covered by rich cultivated fields, coconut grooves etc. reflecting the importance attached to agriculture by the local people.

Graphite : An occurrence of graphite has been noticed in the hill.384, 1.5 kms. southwest of Arumanallur.

Mica : Phlogophite mica occurs in small quantities at Kakaponkulam, Kizhaguvila and Kuzhithura in Kalkulam taluks, at the contact of charnockite and quartzo-felspathic rock; and mica schist and charnockite.

Clay : Minor pockets of white kaolinitic clays are reported in the coastal tracts in the southern and western parts, beneath the laterite and alluvium. In some places the granitic gneisses have been weathered to yield siliceous kaolinitic clays.

Gemstones : The occurrence of chrysoberyl and aquamarine (i) in the pegmatites near Tadikkarankonam, Sengammal Estate and Mahendragiri in Thovala taluk and (ii) in association with the pebble beds at Palukkal, and Midalam, in Vilavancode taluk was examined in detail. Chrysoberyl of semi-precious varieties, of both clear and cat's eye varities occur only sporadically in the pegmatites which traverse the khondalites.

FLORA

The special characteristics of Travancore flora are, as Nagam Aiya says, [12] "its diversity, beauty and economic value". He quotes T.F. Bourdillon, the Conservator of Forests, from his article on the Flora of Travancore (published in the Malabar Quarterly Review-June 1903).

> .... it is reasonable to infer that one continuous forests of uniform character stretched from the west coast of India to Assam and Burma, and that the plants now found in the opposite extremes of India are the descendants of a common ancestor. The forests that still remain are the relic and the development of the great forest that covered the continent, and in the interests of science, the preservation of these remains from complete destruction has not come a day too soon..............

The variety of flora seen here, makes him say,[14]

> Undoubtedly the most remarkable feature of the forests of Travancore is the extent and variety of the Flora................ The vegetation and Flora of Travancore are of exceptional interest first, because they are the relic and development of flora which was at one time uniform over a large part of India, secondly, because of the extraordinary variety of

species occurring within a small area, and thirdly because many of these species have been taken as types of plants with which others from all parts of the world have been compared.

The flora of Kanniyakumari district can still fit in this description well. There are valuable timber trees, trees yielding gums, resin and dyes, avenue trees, cycades and palms, bamboos and reeds, fibrous plants, medicinal plants and flowering and ornamental plants, in the district, making it the botanical garden of Tamil Nadu.

Botanical divisions : [15] A distinct type of Xerophytic flora is seen on the sides of hill ranges of the district. It is dominated by large grasses towards the top and by shrubby forms at the base. The prominent grasses are species of Andropogon (*Ramacham*), Panicum, (inchipul) lemon grass and fodder grass. Large clumps of bamboo and dense growths of Ochlandra *(Eral)* and cane are the plants belonging to the bamboo family which are found here in abundance. Growing sheltered by the grasses are a number of subordinate annual herbs, which have an ephemeral existence and herbacious perennials which are partly bulbous and partly rhizomatous, and which put forth their shoot only during the short favourable seasons. Others flower very rarely. The shrubby forms are constituted by species of Phoenix, Cycas, *Inthai* etc., in the lower elevations, while at high elevations are seen Angiopteris. Typical forest swamps of monsoon forests are found in Muthukuzhivayal, with typical vegetation of the swamps of the forests. Several specimens of grasses, cyperus and eriocaulon form the prominent features of these swamps. Another important grass found here is the lemon grass.

In the lowlands and in the valleys sheltered by the hill ridges, paddy, the main food-crop, is grown extensively. Tapioca is the second important food crop and is cultivated mostly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. There are extensive palmyrah topes in the plains, in the Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, and on a lesser scale in the Agastiswaram and Thovala taluks. Beautiful coconut topes are found in the narrow stretches of the sandy sea-board and along the banks of rivers, tanks, the Manakudy lake and along the estuary at Thengapattinam in the Vilavancode taluks.

The Banyan, the Peepul *(Alamaram and Arasamaram)* the jungle jack *(Anjili)*, Eugenia *(Naval)*, the Portia tree *(Poovarasu or Cheelanthi)*, the Tamarind tree, the Laurel tree *(Punnaimaram)* the India Beech *(Pungu)*, Albizzia *(Vahai)*, Poinciana (*Varachi*), the Gold Mohur tree, the Rain tree

(Thoongumoonchimaram, Kodukkapuli), the Neem tree or the Margosa tree *(Veppu)*, the cashewnut tree and the Casuarina *(Kattadimaram)* are the most important avenue trees that grow in this region. Among the trees and plants producing edible fruits, the most common are the mango tree, the jack, the custard apple *(Panchi)*, different varieties of plantains, banana,. pineapple, cashewnut, guava, the sapodilla plum, the wood apple *(Vilankai)*, the *(elanthai)*, naval, *Papaya* and the bread fruit, Oranges, lime fruit and pomegranate are also grown with profit. Grape-Vine is grown in certain parts. The mangoes and jack fruits of Surangudi, a small village in Agastiswaram taluk, are noted for their excellent taste. Bananas are cultivated on a commercial scale in the hilly tracts. The arecanut is grown to some extent in the Kalkulam, Vilavancode and Thovala taluks.

A large variety of medicinal plants is grown here, of which some 60 species can be grown in the kitchen garden. The suggestive name *Maruthuvamalai* (the hill where medicinal herbs grow)given to one of the hillocks indicates this fact.*Kolumthu* is cultivated at Thovalai for its springs which are aromatic.

Besides the above, different varieties of vegetables, pulses and beans are also grown here. Groundnut is grown in a few acres. Among the spices and condiments grown in this area, cardamom, black pepper, ginger, turmeric, chillies, tamarind, onion, garlic, coriander, cumminseed, clove, nutmeg, cinnamon, mustard and bay- leaf or *Kariveppalai* are the most important.

Among the tuberous plants which yield edible roots, the varieties worth mentioning are:– sweet potatoe, arrow-root, *chenai, chempu, chivakilangu,* Karunaikilangu, *chiruvallikilangu* and tapioca or *maravallikilangu.*

The hedges are composed of a variety of thorny or succulent shrubs, such as Screw-pine, Prickly-pear, Pineapple *(Anasipalam)*, Agave, *(Karthalai)*, Euphorbia *(Kalli)*, Castor *(Amanakku)* etc., The hedges are overgrown with a number of climbers most of which are leafy. Plants such as Jatropha *(kattamanakku)* Pithecolobium *(Kodukapulli)*, Casuarina *(Kattadi)* Sesbania *(Agathi)* and the Erithrina *(mullumurunkka)*, *Pongu* and Lantanna *(unni)* are also grown as hedge plants.

The important plants with showy or scented flowers are *Chempakam*, henna plant *(maruthontri) Chemparuthi thetti*, the ceylon Jasmine or *nanthiarvattam, asokam, arali, nalumanippu, mally or mullai and pitchy*. Several varieties of roses are cultivated in the gardens.

In constrast to the xerophytic vegetation, this district possesses also a typical hydrophytic flora. In most of the tanks are large associations of lotus and water lily plants and other smaller types of Limnanthemum growing amidst them. Among other associations of floating plants are those of Trapa bispinos generally found covering the water surface beneath the shade of the big banyan trees and pistia statistis. Growing submerged are Ceratophyllum, Utricularia, Chara, (pasi) etc., all forming a close tangle underneath. Nearer the shore are Neptunia and Hygrovhiza intermingled with Aeschynomene aspera, Ludiwigia and Ipomoea reptans. They often so closely cover portions of the margin that they are deceptive of solid ground beneath.

Other tanks with shallow water and the river basins in dry weather exhibit reeds which grow in marshy soil, consisting of juncus, scripus, cyperus and typha growing together and forming a close palisade of leaves over the surface of water. Large number of marshy plants grow in the spaces between the reeds and along the margin.

The vegetation in the Cape area is typically xerophytic. Associations of Acacia planiformis (*odai maram*) groves form the characteristic endemic tree types. Trees grown in the other areas are also found here, but they all have a stunted appearance or assume the umbrella shape as the Acacias. Growing in the Acacia woods are cactus, agave, aloe, etc., with a ground vegetation consisting of a number of typical xerophytic herbs including many grasses.

Some species of grass occur in the sandy areas. Forms belonging to all the three major divisions of sea-weeds grow here attached to the rocks. There are also the marine flowering plants growing along the waveline in sand and at shallow depths. Several other species are found attached to rocks and covering the shore near the waveline. A little to the interior are the brown algae and a number of red algae.

Though varying slightly from place to place, the vegetation in the midlands is on the whole similar to that found in the lowlands.

A few varieties of fungi and mushrooms are found throughout the district which are medicinal, edible and parasitic. The bracket-like growths found on the jack tree, commonly known by the name of "Palamanjal", is in some places used as medicine, *Muttaikalan* is a common edible variety. Bud-rot, a disease, which is commonly found to attack coconuts, is attribted to a fungus in this area. The stem-bleeding disease, the leaf blight disease and the wilt disease which attack the coconut tree are also caused by fungi.

Cultivated plants In gardens and parks : Ornamental plants which have the capacity to stand the xerophytic conditions are cultivated in these gardensss :–

Lochnera Pusilla (Murr.) K.sch.

Thevetia Peruviana (Pers.) Merr.

Leucaena glauca (Linn.) Benth.

Peltophorum Pteroca-rpum Baker.

Cassia fistula Linn.

Lochnera rosea (Linn.) Reichl.

Nerium indicum, Mill.

Delonix regia (Boj.) Raf.

Melia azedarach Linn.

Bauhinia purpurea Linn.

Pithecellobium dulce (Roxb.) Benth

Tecoma stans Juss.

Plumeria rubra f. acutifolia woods.

Erythrina variegata Linn. Var. Orientalis (Linn.) Merr.

Duranta repens Linn.

Tabernaemontana divaricata (Linn.) R.Br,

Allamanda cathartica Linn

Quisqualis indica Linn.

Canna sp.

Caesalpinia pulcherrima Sw.

Excoecaria cochinchinensis Lour.

Codiaeum variegatum Linn.

Russelia equisetiformis Schol. & cham.

Millingtonia hortensis Linn.f.

Samanea saman (Jacq.)Merr.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Linn.

Ocimum americanum Linn.

Muehlenbeckia platyclada (Muell.) Mcisn.

Bougainvillaea spectabilis willd.

Mirabilis jalapa Linn.

Gomphrena globose Linn.

Murraya paniculeta (Linn.)

Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd.

Achras zapota Linn.

Though *Casuarina equisetifolia* Linn., thrives very well in these sandy soils, they are not planted on a large scale.

Vegetation and Forests

A. Vegetation : Several studies have been made about the vegetation of the district of which the one by M. Parameswaran Nair deserves special mention. A note on the Vegetation and Forests of the district has been specially prepared by R. Gopalan and A.N. Henry of the Botanical Survey of India for the Kanniyakumari District Gazetteer. The following description is mainly based on this Note.

The district can be divided floristically into three regions - Vegetation of Coastal region; Vegetation of plains between the coast and the hilly regions; and Vegetation of ghats (hills).

Coastal vegetation : The coastal flora is poor due to the factors like sandiness, dryness of soil, scanty rainfall and wind velocity. The coastal vegetation can be divided into two types viz., Foreshore Sandy Vegetation and Inland Sandy Vegetation.

Foreshore Sandy Vegetation : In this area *Spinfix littoreus* Merr., *Ipomoea pescaprae* Sweet, *Sesuvium portulocastrum* L., *Trianthema portulacastrum*, L., *Atriplex repens* Roth, *Cyperus rotundus* L., *Mollugo cerviana* (L.) A.DC *Tephrosia purpurea* Pers., T.Hirta Ham., *Pedalium murex* L., *Portulaca oeraceae* L. and P. *quadrifida* Linn. are commoly seen.

In marshy backwater areas species like *Suaeda nudiflora* Moq., *Salicornia brachiata* Roxb. and *Arthrocnemum indicum* Moq. are frequently met with.

The sea coast has no mangroov flora. However, on the west, the backwaters at the mouth of several rivers and canals connecting them are often thickly fringed with *Pandanus tectorius* Soland. *Acrostichum aureum* L. and *Excoecaria agallocha* L. are comon in shallow waters. In Thengapatnam - Munjirai backwater area *Barringtonia racemose* Roxb., *Ixora coccinea* L. and *Nauclea missionis* wight and Arn., are noticed.

Inland sandy vegetation : This area is characterised by the occurrence of *Euphorbia tirucalli* L., *Jatropha curcas* L., *J. gossypifolia* L., *Cleome aspera* Koen., *C. tenella* L. f., *Aerva lanata* Juss., *Phyla nodiflora* (L) Green and *Zornia diphylla* Pers.

Vegetation of plains between the coast and the hills : *Southern tropical thorny forests* : Some regions of the plains and up to 200 m elevation represent the Southern tropical thorny forests. This type of vegetation is seen in places like Anjukramam, Vattakkottai, Kanniyakumari, Maruthuvalamalai, Colachel and Kuzhithurai. The umbrella tree *Acacia plainfrons* Wight & Arn., is commonly seen around Kanniyakumari and gradually disappear towards the west. *Azima tetracantha* Lam., *Casuarina equisetifolia* Forst. *Dodonaea viscosa* Jacq., *Launea sarmentosa* (Willd.) Alston, *Lepidagathis pungens* Nees and *Jatropha maheswarii* Subr., & Nayar are commonly met with in Kanniyakumari.

The xerophytic plants like *Zizyphus oenoplia* Mill., Z. *mauritiana* Lam., *Flacourtia indica* (Burm.f.) Merr. *Atlantia monophylla* Corr., *Jatropha glandulifera* Roxb., Ricinus communis L., *Toddalia asiatica* Lam. and *Lawsonia inermis* L. are noticed.

Flora of the interior plains : Common trees of the plains are *Cassia siamea* Lam., *Dichostachys cinerea* (L.) Wight & Arn., *Morinda pubescens Smith Thespesia populnea* (L.) Sol. ex Correa, *Ficus bengalensis* L., *F.Retusa* L., *Mangifera indica* L., *Alstonia scholaris* R.Br., *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Merr., and *Calophyllum inophyllum* L. Besides, shrubs and undershrubs like *Crotolaria gigantea* (L.) R.Br., *Cassia auriculata* L., C. *occidentalis* L., C. *tora* L., *Jatropha curcas* L., J. *gossypifolia* L., *Vitex negundo* L., *Crotalaria striata* Dc., *Capparis sepiaria* L., *zizypus xylopyrus* willd.*Dodonaea viscosa* L., *Cleodendrum serratum* (L.) Moon, *Hibiscus surrattensis* L., and *Ehretia microphylla* Lam. are quite common. *Borassus flabelifer* L. is common throughout.

Rhinacanthus nasuta (L.) Kurz, *Asystasia gangetica* T. And., *Heliotropium indicum* L., *Acalypha Fruticosa Forsk.*, *Vernonia cinerea Less.*, *Andrographis paniculata* Nees, *Trichodesma indicum* R.Br., *Justicia simplex* D.Don. *Micrococca mercurialis* Benth. and *Peristrophe bicalyculata* Nees, are some of the herbaceous plants growing under the shades of shrubs and trees.

Cissus quadrangularis L., *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt and *Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.) Chiou are notable climbers frequently met with.

Weed flora : The occurrence of *Ammannia baccifera* L., *Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Pennell, *Cantipeda minima* (L.) A. Br. & Aschers., *Coldenia procumbens* L., *Dentella repens* (L.) J. & G. Forst,., *Eclipta prostata* (L.) L, *Gisekia Pharnaceoides L.*, *Sphaeranthus indicus* L., *Tribulus* terreshis L., *Vicoa indica* (L.) DC.*Centella asiatica* Urb. *Cyperus kyllinga* Endl., *Spilanthes acmella* Murr. *Melochia corchorifolia* L., *Lobelia alsinoides* Lam. *Lindernia anagallis* (Burm.) Pennell and *Ludwigia parviflora* Roxb. contributes to the weed flora of the plains.

Struchium sparganophorum (L.) O. Ktze., an alien weed and a new entrant to the Indian Flora is commonly seen along the banks of Thambaraparani river at Kuzhithurai and Munjirai regions.

Aquatic Flora : In this district ponds, tanks, lakes and canals are numerous providing a rich aquatic flora. The aquatic flora is mainly divided into 3 major divisions; the emerged amphiphytes; the submerged hydrophytes and the floating hydrophytes.

The emerged amphiphytes : These are represented by *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum.) *Heine, Aeschynomene aspera* L., *Scirpus articulatus* L., S. *supinus* L., *Hydrolea zeylanica* (L.) Vahl, *Limnophila heterophylla* Benth., *Monochoria vaginalis Presl* and *Saccolepis interrupta* stopf.

Submerged hydrophytes : This type occurs throughout the basin of tanks. *Ottelia alismoides* Pers., *Vallisneria spiralis* L., *Lagarosiphon alternifolius* (Roxb.) Druce, *Hydrilla verticilla* Royle, *Blyxa octandra* Planch and *Certophyllum demersum* L. are commonly met with.

Floating hydrophytes : Two types are observed: Rooted hydrophytes with floating shoots and leaves; and Free floating forms.

Rooted hydrophytes with floating shoots and leaves : This type is represented by the following: *Aponogeten natans.* (L). Engl. & *Krause Potomogeton indicus* Roxb., *Nymphaea stellata* Will., *N.Pubescens Nymphoides hydrophylla Kuntze, Ludwigia adscendens.* (L). Hara, *Neptunia cleracea* Lour., *Pseudoraphis aspera Pilger, and Nelumbo nucifera Gaertn.*

Free floating forms : *Eichhornia crassipes* Solms. *Trapa bispinosa* Roxb., *Lemna paucicostata* Hegelm, and *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. are the dominant species and they completely cover the water surface.

B. Forest

The total area of Kanniyakumari district is 1684 sq.Kms. i.e., 650,024 sq.miles or 1,68,356.216 hectares. Out of this, an extent of 48423 hectares is covered by forests. Reserved forests alone account for 44799 hectares. An extent of 3605 hectares is unclassed forests and for 19 hectares, there are reserved lands.

Most of the forest in the district are in the catchment areas of numerous streams and rivers. The forests situated on slopes of hills and plateaus with high rainfall, need protection from deterioration and denudation. Consistent with this, and principles of sylviculture, the forests are exploited for timber. Planned efforts are being taken to keep the forests in a state of ever-increasing productivity and to develop economic forest plantations. Suitable areas are brought under teak and matchwood plantations.

The jungles have about 600 species of gigantic timber trees and 3,500 other plants, many of which are of great economic value. Of the valuable timber trees, the most important are teak, rosewood or blackwood, *anjili* (the jungle jack) *Karunthali* (the Malabar ebony) *Manjaikadambu, Ventekku, Karumaruthu* or *thembavu* and *Vengai,* which are generally used in house building and for making furniture, ploughs, yokes, barrows, carts, railway carriages, agricultural implements, etc., Many other varieties of valuable trees including sandalwood are also found to grow here. Besides softwood such as elavu, (இலவு) there is a good supply of reeds and bamboos. The wood of *elavu* is used for making sea going boats, planks for tea chests, toys and matches and the cotton floss obtained from the fruit of this tree is used for stuffing pillows and cushions. Plantations of cardamom and tea are seen on the higher elevations, while pepper, rubber, ginger and turmeric flourish in the lower elevation.

An annual yield of about 1,00,000 c.ft. of timber is expected from the forests. Besides this, revenue could be got from the sale of minor forest produce bamboo, rattan etc., Timber is being extracted by Government both by selection-felling and clear-felling systems. Mature trees alone are extracted in the selection-felling system. In the clear-felling system, after the extraction of timber, the residuary growth is clear-felled and the area

planted up with useful species, such as teak etc., which are of commercial importance. There is possibility of developing commercial timber and matchwood plantations and lac cultivation. The region is also conspicuous for the large area and coconut palms. Another prominent tree in the area is the glossy-leaved jack. Plantain, mango and jack tree are common in the district. During the rainy season, every hollow is filled with vegetation and ferns. Extensive palmyra topes are also seen in the plains of the region. In the interior of the district are seen jack, anjili, mango, tamarind, cashew and other similar trees in large numbers, while on the hill slopes are found several plantain topes and tapioca fields of different varieties.

In the forest areas commercial crops such as coffee, tea, rubber, pepper, cardamom, etc. are grown in plenty.

After giving an account of the forests of Travancore, Nagam Aiya ruefully mentions :[18]

> The foregoing account of our forests might produce an impression on the general reader of the abundance of forest wealth in Travancore. This, however, is a chimera, whatever might have been their condition in by-gone times, when Travancore forests are said to have been indented upon for the building of the British Navy, and Travancore Teak entered largely in the construction of ships that fought the battle of the Nile and gave victory to Nelson at R. Trafalgar. Such is not the case at any rate now . . . . Considered in any light it may be safely stated that the 'untold wealth' of the Travancore forests is a thing of the past; it cannot apply to present day conditions. If a sustained policy of care and economy is vigilantly followed for the next 100 years or so, the Travancore forests may be resuscitated with real advantage to the State and prosperity to the agricultural ryots.

The growing population and the consequent pressure on land reduces the extent of forest. The deep concern expressed by Nagam Aiya about 80 years ago, happens to be more relevant now.

The forests of Kanniyakumari district have been described earlier by ***A.N. Henry*** and ***M.S. Swaminathan***[19]. The following is a more recent account of ***R.Gopalan*** and ***A.N. Henry.***

Southern tropical dry deciduous forests : These forests, ranging from an altitude of 200 to 600 m. occur in Keeriparai, Mangolamottai (lower Kodayar) Maruthaparai beat of Kulasekaram, Ulakkaruvi near Alagiyapandipuram range and Kuttiyar region of Pechiparai. Some areas were cleared in this region for rubber plantation by the Forest Department. In the undisturbed forests the following trees and shrubs occur:– *Haldina Cordifolia* (Roxb.) *Ridsdale Cochlospermum* religiosum (L.) Alston, *Dillenia pentagyna* Roxb., *Hydnocarpus laurifolius* (Dennst.) Sleumer, *Hymenodictyom excelsum* (Roxb.) Wall., *Lannea coramandelica* (Houtt.) Merr., *Semecarpus anacardium* L.f. and *Terminalia chebula* (Gaertn.) Retz.

Desmodium triangulare (Retz.) Merr. var. *congestum* (Wight & Arn.) Sant. forms the main undergrowth. *Aeginetia indica* L. and A. *pedunculata* (Roxb.) wall., the root parasites, have also been recorded from this region.

Southern tropical moist deciduous forests : These are met with around Kilaviarumalai and Kulikasam river near Balamore and Vallachithode at Lower Kodyar at an altitude of about 60 m. These forests give a dense appearance. The common trees of this region include *Acronychia pedunculata* (L.) Miq., *Alstonia Scholaris* (L.) R.Br., *Scleropyrum wallichianum* (Wight & Arn.) Arn. and *Vateria indica* L. The lianas *Gnetum=ula* Brogn. and *Derris thyrsiflora* (Benth.) Benth. var. *eualata* (Bedd.) Thoth. occur in this area. Lithophytic herbs like *Begonia floccifers* Bedd. and *B. malabar ica* Lam. are abundant in Vellachithode and Kilaviarumalai.

Southern tropical wet evergreen forests : This type of shola forests is found in Upper Kodayar, on the way to and at Muthukuzhivayal and Mahendragiri etc., above 800 m. bordering, or in between grasslands. These forests are very dense and impenetrable. Due to the heavy monsoon rains epiphytic and terrestrial orchids grow abundantly in these regions. Trees are very tall with huge trunks. Some of the common

trees and shrubs are:– *Aglaia boundilonii* Gamble, *Cullenia exerillata* A. Robyns., *Dimocarpus longan* Lour., *Elaeocarpus munroii* (wight) Mart., *E. tuberculatus* Roxb., *E.venustus* Bedd., *Garcinia travancorica* Bedd., *Lingustrum travancoricum* Camble, *Symplocos cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Moore subsp. *laurina* (Retz.) Nooteb., *S. nairii* Henry, Gopalan & Swamin., *Trichillia connaroides* (Wight & Arn.) Bentvelzen, *Vernonia monosis* DC. and *V. travancorica* Hook. f.

Common climbers include *Embelia basal* (Roem. & Schult.) A. DC., *Smilax zeylanica* L., *Tetrastigma sulcatum* (Lawson) Gamble and *Zanthoxylum tetraspermum* Wight & Arn.

Aeschynanthus perrottetii DC., and Hoya *pauciflora* Wight are the common epiphytes of this region.

Grassy Swards : At the higher altitude of Muthukuzhivayal, Mahendragiri and Upper Kodayar, this type of grasslands occur. The grasses like *Chrysopogon orientalis* (Desv.) Camus, *Eulalia phaeothrix* (Hack.) O.Ktze., *Themeda trimula* (Nees ex Steud.) Hack. and *Zenkeria sebastinei* Henry & Chandrabose, are common in this region. Amidst grasses and also in rocky crevices beautiful flowered orchids, and Impatiens are seen growing with Ferns. The other herbs include *Acrotrema arnottianum* wight, *Centratherum rangacharii* Gamble, *Exacum travancoricum* Bedd., *Leucas vestita* Benth. *Linum mysorense* Heyne, *Hedyotis purpurescens* Hook. f., *Heracleum candeolleanum* (Wight & Arn.) Gamble, *Senecio ludens* C1. and *Smithia blands* Wall. ex Wight & Arn. On dripping rocks *Utricularia roseopurpurea* stapf ex Gamble and *U.reticulata* smith are commonly met with.

This district is one of the botanically rich areas of Peninsular India. The richness and diversity of this region are due to the variation in its elevation from sea level to about 1800 m., tropical climate, heavy rainfall and the mountainous configuration. It is unfortunate that the rich flora and fauna of this district are disturbed due to clearing of forest areas for hydro-electric projects, raising of plantations like Rubber, Cardamom and urbanisation. In upper Kodayar and Lower Kodayar a major portion of the rich forests has been cleared for the Kodayar Hydro-electric Project. Vast forest areas have been cleared in Keeriparai, Pechiparai, Perunchani and surrounding regions for raising Rubber Plantations which are further extended. It is very essential to protect the rich but vanishing flora of this district.

WILD LIFE

The district is rich in wild life.[20] The hill forests of this district exhibit a large variety of fauna and most of the South Indian species are represented. Elephants abound in the upper reaches of Asambu, Veerapuli and Kamala reserve. But the most frequented place is Mahendragiri. Herds are found in the Muthukuzhi valley. During rainy season, they descend to Kodhayar lake. Round about Othakadai and Blackrock estate, tigers descend to the lower reaches in October-November months. Panthers are more common than tigers in all forests. Bears are fairly common at elevations of 3,000 feet and over. They sometimes descend to lower levels like the estates in Veerapuli and Asambu forests. Small herds of bison frequent the sholas and grass areas around Muthukuzhi valley and the higher reaches of Asambu. Muthukuzhi valley and whole of Asambu are favourite resorts for Sambur. Spotted deer and barking deer are comparatively rare. A good number of wild dogs are found in Muthukuzhi valley. Black monkey inhabits the sholas and the moist deciduous forests of the hills. It is said that these animals have been heavily shot in the past for their skin and medicinal flesh. Jackal, fox, mongoose, hare and otters are some of the less important animals of this district.

The Pechiparai region may well develop into an ideal game sanctuary. If only the evil of illicit poaching is completely stopped, the district's life will grow and flourish well.

FAUNA

Ferguson[21] refers to Travancore fauna as belonging to the great Indo-Malay or Oriental Region and within that to Cisgangetic sub-region. He points out, however, that the hill fauna of Travancore has affinities with that of the Himalayas and the south western hill-group in Ceylon.

Mammals : Ten Orders of Mammals are found in this district. They are (i) Order *Primates* (Old World Monkeys) (ii) Order *Lemuroidea* (monkey having fox-like faces) like the *Slander loris*, (iii) Order *Carnivore* (cats and dogs) (iv) Order *Insectivora* (Hedgehog) (v) Order *Chiroptera*, (bats) (vi) Order *Rodentia* (Squirrels, rats, mice, hares, etc.,) (vii) Order *Proboscidea* (Elephants) (viii) Order *Ungulata* (the mammals such as

pigs, deers etc.,) (ix) Order *Cartacea* (Whales, porpoises, Dolphins), (x) Order *Edentata Indian* (Pangolin variety of toothless mammal.)

(i) **Primates (Old world Monkeys) :–** These are found in the sholas and moist deciduous forests all over the district. There are four species namely (1) the grey or Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus*) (2) Toque monkey (M. *Pileatus)* (3) Lion-tailed monkey *(Maccucus silenpus)* and (4) Nilgiri langur. The first two varieties are found in the low country while the latter in the hills at elevations of 2000 feet. In Ayurvedic medicines the flesh of the Nilgiri langur is used. These animals are all voracious eaters of wild forest fruits.

(ii) **Lemuroidea :–** Monkeys under this category are rare. *Slender Loris* a specimen occurs in the interior forests.

(iii) **Carnivore (Cats and dogs) :–** *Carnivore* or beasts of prey are well represented here.

Tigers *(Felis Tigris)* are found around the Black Rock estate in the district. During October, November months these animals descend to the lower reaches and are also found in the villages bordering the forests. They are of a very destructive nature to other animals like pigs, deer, and porcupines. Occasionally young bisons also fall victims.

Panthers *(Felis Pardus)* are found in almost all the jungles of the forest from the scrub jungle to the moist deciduous forests. Very often they kill sheep, cattle, sambur, goats, dogs, jackals, etc.,

Bears (Sloth) *(Melurssu Ursinsu)* usually reside at elevations of 3000' and over, but sometimes descend to the lower levels like Veerapuli and Asambu reserves. They live in caves on hill-sides and eat wild fruits and nuts found in shola forests. Usually they are harmless to man but there are instances of attack on hill tribes in defence of their cubs.

Wild dogs (Cyon Sukhunensis) abode in hills. Many of them are seen in Muthukuzhi Valley. They hunt in packs usually six to twelve upon deer, wild pigs, etc.,

The Mongooses (கீரி) are very common in the low country and also in the jungles. Four varieties of them are found here. The most familiar among them is *Horpestes Edwardsit* with a dim grey colour, short legs and long body.

Jungle cats *(Felis Chaus)* (காட்டுப்பூனை) are found in the low country and are slightly bigger than the domestic cats. These cats very often attack poultry in the neighbouring villages.

Jackals and foxes are also common animals of the jungles.

(iv) **Insectivore (Srineceus micropus) :–** The only Hedgehog found in the south is the South Indian variety and it is found all over the district.

(v) **Chiroptora :–** Bats are very common. The large fruit eating bats are called flying foxes. There are different species of bats namely *Pteropus medius* (giganteus), *Cynopterus marginatus, Vesperugo abramus* and *Cerivolua picta.* The first of these is the largest Indian bat with a head resembling that of a fox. The commonest of them is the *Vesperugo,* hiding during the day time in holes of trees and roofs and flying inside houses in search for small insects towards night fall. The *cerivoula picta* is beautifully coloured.

(vi). **Rodentia :–** (Squirrels, rats, mice, hare, etc.,)

Among the squirrels, the palm squirrel or the stripped squirrel is the most commonly found in the country side. It is a beautiful creature with three coloured stripes on its back and long bush tail, moving among the trees and making continuous chirrups. Another variety, the Malabar squirrel found in the jungles is a dark brown animal with white lower parts and black tail. It lives in the holes of lofty trees in the moist deciduous and ever-green forests. This is one of the protected animals, not allowed to be shot in the reserved forests.

The *Hystric laucura* (Indian Porcupine) is found all over the forests. It is very destructive to crops. During the day-time, it remains in caves amongst the rocks and burrows made by itself in hillsides, river banks etc.,

Rats, mice and hares are very common. They are very destructive to nurseries. *Muss rattius* which is found in house holds are of a troublesome nature. *Muss booduge* is the Indian field mouse found in the gardens.

(vii) **Proboscidea (elephants)** :– Round about the Kodayar and Perunchani Reservoirs and along the Corrimonya and Balamore roads elephants do considerable damage by trampling over and uprooting young trees and breaking down branches of bigger ones. These animals are found in abundance in the upper reaches of Asambu and Veerapuli reserves. In Muthukuzhi valley groups of elephants are found. The elephants found in these areas are of a timid nature. Solitary males or rogues are seldom found.

(viii) **Ungulata (Pigs, deer, etc.).** Deers (Cervidae) are seen throughout the hilly forests of the district. There are three species found in the district, viz., spotted deer *(carvus axis)* sambhur *(Carvas Unicolour)*. Barking Deer *(Ceruvlus muntjac)*. Muthukuzhi valley and the whole of Asambu forests are the favourable resorts of the Sambhur deer.

Bison :– Bos Cauruse is the largest of the two bovine found in the forests. They live in rock caves on hills upto an elevation of 5000 feet. Small herds of bisons frequent the sholas and grass areas around the Muthukuzhi valley and higher reaches of Asambu. Usually they are of a timid nature.

Ibex :– Hemitragues Hyluerius, known as the wild goat is usually confined to grassy slopes.

On the hills and in the scrub jungles are found wild bears (*suscritsatus*) in herds. They are destructive to groundnuts and root crops. It is considered to be the most courageous of all wild animals and fights to the end. There are desperate fights between wild bear and tiger.

(ix) **Cartacea (Whales, Porpoises, Dolphins)** :– Aquatic Dolphins and porpoises are found in the river mouths and back waters. Whales are not seen in this district, except the standard ones on the shores. In 1904 a large Fin whale or Baleen whale (*Balenoptera indica*) was stranded on the coast at Rajackkamangalam.

(x) **Edentata Indian (Indian Pangolian)** :– It belongs to the variety of toothless mammal. Indian Pangolian or scaly

ant-eater is a nocturnal animal of this group, found in the wilderness.

BIRDS

The forests of this district support a variety of *avi-fauna*. About 360 varieties are found in this region. The richness of the *avi-fauna* of this region may be understood from the fact that out of the 204 species of the South Indian Passerine birds 140 birds are found in this region.

The House Crow (*Corvus splendens splendens*) ris the most common of the Indian birds found in the district. In size it is somewhat smaller than the jungle crow. Still a different type is the uniformly jet black jungle crow. Its voice is different from that of the common house crow, the **"Caws"** being deeper and hoarser. Very often we see it in the countrysides also. Usually it is solitary and rarely goes in parties. Land crabs are its favourite food during monsoons.

There are also the babblers going about in pairs or in groups on the ground or in low bushes. Two varieties are common **(i)** the jungle babbler and **(ii)** the common babbler or the Rat bird. The jungle babbler is an earthybrown bird. It has an untidy appearance and a long tail that gives the impression of being loosely stuck into the body. While feeding, the babblers chatter which now and then grows very loud. Slimmer than the jungle babbler is the common babbler or rat bird, a resident of the dry plains. Very often we see it in groups of seven or eight. It feeds largely on the ground and when it runs its tail which is about four inches long, seems to train on the ground like that of a rat. A series of short pleasant thrilling whistles are produced by the bird.

Early in the morning and some times late in the evening or in the dead of night, we hear the mellow voice of cuckoo (குக்கூ). Cuckoo is, a great black fowl almost as large as the crow, with a much longer tail and a green bill.

Beautiful in colour is the golden oriel. This is a bright yellow bird with black in the wings and tail, and a conspicuous black streak through the eye. It is usually known as the mango bird fond of orchards and groves or large trees such as banyan, mango and tamarind. The birds have a rich soft mellow note.

The Indian Robin is one of the common birds of our villages. It frequents the open and dry parts of the countryside and often visits gardens and compounds. It is a sprightly little black bird with red colour under its tail. White patches are visible in each wing in flight. Insects and caterpillars form a main item of its food. There is also the magpie-robin or Dhayal, usually seen in the neighbourhood of human habitations. It is a trim black and white bird with cocked tail as in the Robin and is one of the fine songsters.

The tailor bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) a small restless green bird, visits very often countryside. The loud cheerful calls (towit'towit') are among the familiar sounds of the warblers.

The Red vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafervicinus*) is familiar in elevations of about 4000 ft. throughout India. It is a brown bird with black head, and scale-like markings on breast and back and a conspicuous crimson patch under the tail. Usually it is seen in plains where food is plentiful, like a banyan tree with ripe fruits.

Many times we come across the Iora (*Aegithinatiphia*) a small bird of different colours, in our gardens and groves. The colour of the female is green. The bird is usually seen in pairs which hunt for caterpillars and insects among the foliage, hopping from twig to twig. The birds keep in touch with one another by mellow whistles and short musical chirrups.

Of the Shrikes, the scarlet Minivet is the commonest, and found in the woody country and ever-green jungle. It has a pleasant whistling of 'Whee tweet' - or 'Whi-ri-ri'.

The Drongo or the (King crow) (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) a glossy black bird with forked tail is very often seen in the countryside. This feeds exclusively on insects which are harmful to cultivation and hence is a friend of the farmer.

Any one can see the common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) walking on the grass land. The colour of the bud is dark brown and its bill is bright yellow. A large white patch on the wing is visible when the bird is in flight. The bud is an excellent mimic and can be taught to talk. It usually imitates the notes of other birds.

The common weaver bird (*ploceus baya*) a small sparrow-like bird is a wonderful phenomenon of the coconut palm groves. It builds or rather

weaves flask-shaped nests which hang from trees, the entrance being from below. Usually palm trees are selected for this purpose. Several kinds of material are used. The best is very thin stripes of coconut leaves. The bird notches the edge of a leaf with its beak and then tears off a long thin fibre. The neck of the nest is first twined, which is gradually expanded in the form of an inverted wine glass or a bell of the size suitable for accommodating the family and the mouth of the bell is then divided into two parts, one made suitable for laying eggs and the other prolonged into a long neck.

The voice of the small sky-lark, a hen sparrow-like bird with dark streaks in plumage, is very often heard in low country and on the hills. It has a peculiar fluttering flight and is a songster of exceptional merit. As the breeding season draws near, the males engage in singing displays.

The sun birds, or the honey suckers, pretty little birds with beautiful colours are very often found in gardens. There are mainly three species viz., *cinnyris zeylanicca cinnyris asisatica* and *cinnyris lotenia.*

Wood-peckers are very common species. They feed exclusively on insects which they pick off the trunk of trees. They are very skilled climbers moving up and down the tree trunk in a series of jerks; the head is always pointing upwards. They excavate their nests in dead trunks of trees. The common variety found are the Golden backed wood pecker *(Brachypteraus bengalensis)*, the yellow fronted pied wood-pecker *(Dryobates mahrattensis)* and the southern Rufous wood pecker *(Micropternus brachyurus)*. Whistling Thrush, Besides the rocky hilly streams are heard the voice of the Malabar whistling thrush, a bird of blue black. In the breeding season it develops a rich human whistling and hence known by the name whistling school boy. Aquatic insects, snails and crabs form part of its diet. Paradise fly catchers visit frequently shady groves, gardens and deciduous jungle with bamboo clad regions. It is a white bird with black head and two long ribbon like feathers. The female resembles a bulbul and is of a grayish white colour.

House sparrow (*passer domesticus*) is found in most places where there are human habitations.

Parrots are found mostly in hilly and woody areas. The female is green all over while the male has a rosy collar and black neck-tie. The beak is coral red. Its food consists of fruits, berries and grain and it causes considerable damage to ripening crops. Its flight is graceful.

Beside the inundated paddy fields, ponds, *Kutcha* wells and sandy sea shore are seen the common king fisher, in turquoise blue with brown head and a conspicuous white colour in front and a red bill. From a favourite perch on some bare branch it can survey the country round and it hurls down on creeping prey ; flies off with it to another perch and tears the victim.

Bee eaters are very common (*Merops Orientalis*). It is a slender bright green bird, tinged with reddish brown on head and neck with the central pair of tail feathers prolonged. They utter a pleasant note of tit' tit' tit'.

The Indian blue rock pigeons are seen all over the plains. It is a slaty grey bird with glistening colours around the neck.

Amongst the game birds, the jungle-fowl is the commonest (*Gallus Sonneratti*). It multiplies during the period of bamboo flowering and seeding. The Asambu forests in Azhakiapandipuram range is noted for its dwelling. Grey partridge (*Francoliuns SPP.,*) is another game bird which is very often seen in the thorny scrubby country. It is a greyish brown game bird in the dry open grass, fields of the scrub jungle.

There are two main varieties of owls namely the spotted owlet (*Athene Brama*) and the Barn owl or screech owl (*Strix flammea*). The spotted owlet is brown or grey in colour with dark brown spots in lower plumage. It comes out at dusk and also in midnight and pours forth continuous squeaks and chuckles; some times two of these shouting at once. The Barn owl or the screech owl is a reddish brown bird with white and black bars. Its face is round but its body is long. It lives in the wood. But occasionally it strays into the country side and perching at house tops, shouts at dead of night. It is considered to be a harbinger of bad news and is driven off by villagers. Other varieties found are the Brown Fish owl (*Ketupa Keylonensis*) and the Indian great Horned owl (*Bulo-bubo*).

There are two important species of kites in this district viz., Pariah kite and the Brahminy kite. The pariah kite is a large brown bird, a good scavanger in towns and villages. Perching on tree-tops, it fixes its eyes on the ground for scraps that can be lifted. The Brahminy kite (Haliastur indus) is a rusty red bird of prey, with a white head. It has a sharp vision. It flies round and round high up in the skies in search of prey. Frequently it visits the coastal areas. Its food consists mainly of crabs, lizards, small snakes and fish.

Among the birds of prey the white backed vulture (*Pseudogyps bengalensis*) and the white scavanger vulture are the prominent. The white backed vulture is very common in India. It is very dark grey, almost black in Colour. Its eye sight is remarkably keen. These birds gather in large numbers at a carcass from nowhere within a very short time. The white scavanger vulture or pharaos chicken is another variety. Its plumage is dirty white and the tips of wings are black. The neck is covered with feathers.

Water birds are very common along the coastal back waters and also inundated paddy fields and tanks which support them. The white breasted water hen, (*Amauronis Phoeniourus*) is popular slaty grey bird which we see in the marshy pieces over-grown with reeds and bushes and on the margins of ponds clad with bamboo reeds. The sound which this bird can produce is very astounding. During the dry season it is silent enough but as soon as the rain begins it gets boisterous and roars as if it were a wild beast. Its flying capacity is much limited.

The coot is another water bird found in and around the tanks and inundated paddy fields. This is the most duck-like of the rails and is frequently shot and eaten as a duck.

Very often we come across storks, in inundated paddy fields, tanks, ponds, and rivers. It is greyish white water bird with a reddish black bill. An almost similar type is the crane seen in the well-watered plains. Its food consists mainly of insects and reptiles.

There are four species of ducks common in the area. Their bodies are long and boat-shaped, their plumage close-set and well-oiled, their legs short and their feet converted into paddlers by a web which stretch from toe to toe. With the aid of these they swarm swiftly over the surface water.

In the paddy fields and ponds the paddy bird (*Ardeola gray*) is abundant. Its plumage is mostly white and it is seen where there is water and food. Its diet consists mainly of frogs, fish, crabs and insects.

Reptiles

The reptiles include crocodiles, tortoises, turtles, lizards and snakes. Two species of crocodiles, nine of chelonians, 33 of lizards and 74 of snakes, recorded in the old Travancore State, are generally found in the Kanniyakumari district.

The Hamadryad *(Naia bungarus)* usually frequents the rivers and streams in Shola forests. This is a special variety occurring in the district. Viper *(Echis Carinata)* and the Cobra (*Naia tripudians*) are also a common species found in the hollows of trees and in dilapidated houses. Rat snakes are also frequently found but they are not poisonous. In dry sandy tracts one comes across pythons (*Python molrus*).

Amphibians

Among the amphibians, e.g., frogs, 34 species are found, of which three, *Rana aurantiace, Ixalus Travancorious* and *Buffo fergusoni* are peculiar to this region. These amphibians are found in regions which have a damp situation, in paddy fields and in places where the rain water collects.

Fishes

The coast of Travancore is well known for the rich variety of fishes. Nearly 370 fishes have been found. The top fishes, whale sharks and saw fishes are abundant in the seas. Flat fishes, prawns and shrinks and scraps are also found in large quantities. Rock Oysters occur in densely group colonies at Kovalam and Vilinjam. Though edible they are not commonly used for eating purposes as it is difficult to open their shells because of their firmly interlocking edges. A kind of small Octopus is also found under the rocks at Cape Comorin.

On the coast of Vilinjam and Kovalam the sacred chank (*Turbinella Pirum*) occurs in fairly large quantities. Large numbers are fished up every year and exported to Bengal where they are sawn and made into bangles, rings, etc. At Cape Comorin two species of Top Shells Trochidac (*Trochus, radiatus* and *Costatus*) are fairly abundant. The shells of the species are thick and very pearly within and are used for button making.

Arthropoda

This is a very large group comprising of *Insecta Myriapoda* (Centipedes and millipedes)x, *Arachnida* (Scorpions, spiders etc., crustacea, (crabs) Onychophora (peripatus). Onychophora are not represented in this part. Among the insects ear-wigs, cockroaches, leaf insects, grass-hoppers and crickets should be mentioned. Among the poisonous insects, the varieties of scorpions and spiders are found in the

district. The Ticks of the genus *Ixodes* are commonly found in the grass lands and they attack all land vertibrates including snakes and lizards.

CLIMATE

The district has a warm humid climate, with no cold season. The summer season is particularly oppressive. The summer from March to May is followed by the southwest monsoon season from June to September. October and November constitute the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season with frequent thunderstorms. The period from December to February is the northeast monsoon season although the rains are confined to the first half of the season and the rest of the period is one of clear bright weather generally.

Rainfall : Records of rainfall in the district are available for a good net work of 19 stations for periods ranging from 15 to 70 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in tables 1 and 2. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1469.7mm. The rainfall in the district in general increases from the southeast to the northwest and varies from 807.4mm. at Thamarakulam (old salt factory) near the southeastern coast to 2262.2 mm. at Pechipparai. There is some rain all the year round. The least amount of rainfall is received in January and February. The heaviest rainfall, often associated with thunderstorms, is received during the retreating monsoon period, October and November. While 39 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in the two months of October and November, the thunderstorm rains in April and May constitute 17 per cent of the annual total. The southwest monsoon rains during the period June to September form 37 per cent of the annual total. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is appreciable, being more so in the southeastern parts of the district. The highest annual rainfall during this fifty year period amounting to 154 per cent of the annual normal occurred in 1933. 1908 was the year with the lowest rainfall which was only 55 per cent of the normal. Annual rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal occurred in 14 years in the fifty year period 1901 - 1950. In this period the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in two consecutive years once, three consecutive years once, and four consecutive years twice, in the district as a whole. Even five consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred during the period 1934 - 1938 at Kottaram. It will be seen from the table 2 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 900 and 1600 mm. in 38 years out of fifty. On an average, there are 86 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number

increases, as in the case of the amount of rainfall, from 53 at Thamarakulam to 122 at Pechipparai. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 304.8 mm. at Seetapal on 1922 November 30.

Temperature : There is a meteorological observatory in the district at Kanniyakumari. The records of Kanniyakumari though available for short period may be taken as fairly representative of the condition which prevails in the district in general. From about the middle of February to about the last week of May, when the southwest monsoon usually arrives over the district, the day temperatures remain fairly high with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 33.1°C· In March the mean daily maximum temperature is 32.1°C. The nights are comparatively cool in February and the minimum temperature rises gradually and by May, the mean daily minimum temperature becomes 26.1°C. The Oppressiveness of the weather is often relieved by cool sea breezes and frequent thunderstorms. With the onset of the southwest monsoon, temperatures decrease appreciably. There is a slight increase in temperature in October. But in general, the day temperatures continue to be nearly the same as in the monsoon season till about January. The nights however are slightly cooler in the period November to February.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Kanniyakumari was 38.2°C. on 1973 May 15 and 1973 November 15, and the lowest minimum was 18.8 °C on 1974 February 7.

Humidity : Humidity is fairly high throughout the year in the district. January to March is the driest part of the year, the relative humidities in the afternoons specially, being between 65 and 70 percent.

Cloudiness : The months January and February is the period of mainly clear or lightly clouded skies. There is increased cloudiness in the next three months, the skies being heavily clouded and threatening on many days when thunderstorms follow. In the southwest and retreating monsoon seasons, skies are often heavily clouded or overcast. In December moderate to heavy clouded skies are common.

Winds : Winds are generally light to moderate with some strengthening in force during the southwest monsoon season. During the period December to February the winds are mainly northeasterly. During the period March to November, the winds are mainly from the northwesterly or westerly directions.

Special weather phenomena : Thunderstorms occur in all the months of the year. The period from March to May and the months of October and November have a high incidence of thunderstorms.

In tables 3,4 and 5 are given the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Kanniyakumari.

TABLE – 1

Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of Years of date		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Pechipparai	35	a	41.1	33.3	86.9	181.1	246.4	346.7	233.9	161.5
		b	2.5	2.1	5.4	11.1	11.1	17.5	15.3	11.5
Kaliyal	35	a	28.7	27.7	79.0	167.6	195.8	277.1	187.7	127.5
		b	1.8	1.5	4.4	9.3	9.2	15.8	12.1	9.9
Kulasekharam	35	a	31.7	40.9	89.1	174.5	211.6	295.9	164.6	149.3
		b	2.5	2.3	5.4	9.9	9.5	16.0	13.2	10.3
P.P. Channel	35	a	24.4	23.4	45.0	125.2	128.5	216.7	110.2	78.5
		b	1.9	1.5	3.1	6.0	6.6	12.9	10.5	6.2
Puthen Dam	35	a	35.6	30.5	85.3	180.9	190.7	309.6	190.5	142.2
		b	2.3	2..6	5.4	9.8	9.3	16.8	14.1	10.6
Thadikarankonam	35	a	24.9	17.5	69.3	145.5	164.9	284.0	175.8	115.6
		b	1.7	1.5	4.7	8.5	8.1	14.9	12.3	8.6

Station	Sep.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as percent tage of normal & year **	Lowest annual rainfall as percent tage of normal & year **	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm)	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Date
	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Pechipparai	186.2	353.6	298.5	93.0	2262.2	169	65	236.2	1949 Jan 30
	10.3	15.7	13.6	5.5	121.6	(1933)	(1938)		
Kaliyal	138.7	342.1	289.3	86.6	1947.8	175	19	190.5	1943 Oct 10
	8.6	15.1	13.4	5.2	106.3	(1933)	(1948)		
Kulasekharam	157.7	354.8	286.5	96.3	2052.9	156	71	188.0	1930 Oct 23
	9.1	15.5	13.8	5.5	113.0	(1933)	(1938)		
P.P. Channel	81.0	277.4	277.4	71.9	1459.6	160	53	241.3	1945 Oct 18
	5.9	13.0	13.0	4.2	84.8	(1943)	(1938)		
Puthen Dam	156.2	360.4	275.8	93.7	2051.4	151	61	238.8	1924 Oct 30
	9.6	16.0	13.9	5.5	115.9	(1933)	(1934)		
Thadikarankonam	123.7	283.0	251.5	60.2	1715.9	160	53	200.7	1925 Nov 9
	7.7	14.9	13.2	3.8	99.9	(1933)	(1945)		

(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Kuzhithurai	50	a	18.0	19.6	38.6	100.1	152.9	258.6	140.5	89.9
		b	1.3	1.2	2.6	5.9	6.8	14.1	10.9	6.5
Mekodu	35	a	32.3	24.1	65.5	133.3	166.6	262.4	159.3	125.2
		b	2.2	1.8	4.6	8.0	8.4	15.4	12.7	9.2
Mulakumoodu	35	a	24.6	20.8	59.2	117.6	172.7	242.6	139.7	98.5
		b	1.4	1.5	3..3	6.8	7.3	13.7	10.5	7.1
Seetapal	35	a	19.6	18.3	48.8	91.9	103.9	178.6	103.6	63.0
		b	1.5	1.2	3.5	5.7	5.7	12.0	8.9	5.4
Chorlakode	35	a	27.4	22.1	66.8	138.2	173.5	296.2	171.7	127.5
		b	2.0	1.8	5.2	8.4	8.5	15.6	12.9	9.3
Aramboly (Aralvaimozhi)	50	a	28.5	18.3	38.6	68.6	60.5	129.0	66.3	33.3
		b	1.8	1.3	2.7	4.4	3.6	9.1	6.5	3.7
Thuckalay (Kalkulam)	35	a	26.9	26.7	64.5	138.2	164.9	224.5	121.9	86.1
		b	1.6	1.5	8.9	7.2	7.7	13.3	9.3	6.5
Eraniel	50	a	17.3	16.5	40.4	92.2	125.7	212.6	115.8	66.0
		b	1.2	1.1	2.6	5.5	6.2	12.8	8.9	4.9

	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Kuzhithurai	103.9	250.4	221.2	65.8	1459.5	176 (1933)	58 (1922)	238.8	1925 Nov 10
	6.5	11.7	10.4	3.6	81.5				
Mekodu	129.3	327.1	252.0	78.5	1755.6	155 (1933)	58 (1938)	240.0	1932 Aug 28
	8.3	15.1	13.1	5.1	103.9				
Mulakumoodu	95.8	266.2	242.3	69.3	1549.3	165 (1933)	69 (1949)	177.8	1945 Oct 18
	6.2	12.4	11.6	3.6	85.4				
Seetapal	63.5	199.1	199.4	57.7	1147.4	157 (1924)	53 (1934)	304.8	1922 Nov 30
	5.2	11.4	10.7	3.3	74.5				
Chorlakode	133.6	306.1	261.6	70.1	1794.8	158 (1933)	64 (1947)	181.6	1922 Nov 30
	8.5	15.0	13.2	4.5	104.9				
Aramboly (Aralvaimozhi)	37.3	210.3	199.9	79.3	969.9	150 (1943)	44 (1949)	246.4	1925 Nov 9
	3.3	10.7	10.1	4.0	61.2				
Thuckalay	96.0	278.4	242.3	67.1	1537.5	179 (1933)	48 (1949)	228.6	1939 May 10
(Kalkulam)	5.9	11.9	11.7	3.8	84.3				
Eraniel	79.8	229.1	200.7	64.3	1260.4	162 (1932)	64 (1342)	276.9	1939 May 10
	5.4	11.2	10.2	3.4	73.4				

(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Colachel (Salt Factory)	46	a	19.3	14.7	32.0	79.0	130.6	218.4	124.7	71.4
		b	1.5	1.0	2.2	4.4	6.7	13.4	9.7	5.6
Nagercoil (P.W.D.)	50	a	23.1	12.2	34.8	76.5	89.1	169.2	89.7	47.0
		b	1.6	1.0	2.3	4.7	5.0	11.6	8.2	4.4
Rajakkamangalam	50	a	21.6	10.9	24.9	65.3	109.0	181.6	90.4	49.8
		b	1.6	0.8	2.0	4.1	6.0	12.3	8.4	4.4
Thamarakulam (Old Salt Factory)	50	a	16.0	12.9	25.1	58.9	60.5	116.3	59.4	33.8
		b	1.3	0.8	1.7	3.4	4.0	9.5	6.2	3.0
Kottaram	35	a	24.4	17.5	32.5	58.4	71.6	105.4	63.7	33.0
		b	1.9	1.0	2.0	3.6	4.5	9.1	6.6	3.6
Kanniyakumari (District)		a	25.5	21.5	54.0	115.4	143.1	227.7	132.1	89.4
		b	1.8	1.4	3.5	6.7	7.1	13.5	10.4	6.9

(a) Normal rainfall in mm (b) Average number of rainy days

	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Colachel	78.0	204.0	184.9	61.0	1218.0	176	62	254.3	1939 May 10
(Salt Factory)	5.7	10.3	9.8	3.4	73.7	(1920)	(1937)		
Nagercoil	60.2	201.2	182.1	60.7	1045.8	140	66	179.8	1892 Apr 24
(P.W.D.)	4.7	10.7	10.4	3.3	67.9	(1924)	(1908)		
Rajakkamangalam	53.3	180.9	178.8	61.0	1027.5	150	66	268.5	1896 Dec 26
	4.4	10.0	9.8	3.4	67.2	(1924)	(1949)		
Thamarakulam	32.3	147.8	179.1	65.3	807.4	180	54	200.7	1925 Nov 09
(Old Salt Factory)	3.2	8.1	8.9	3.0	53.1	(1925)	(1944)		
Kottaram	37.1	150.9	198.6	70.1	863.2	157	63	224.8	1925 Nov 09
	3.3	9.0	10.5	3.9	59.0	(1920)	(1949)		
Kanniyakumari	97.0	259.1	232.7	72.2	1469.7	154	55		
(District)	6.4	12.5	11.6	4.1	85.9	(1933)	(1908)		

(days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

* Based on available data up to 1970

** Years given in brackets.

TABLE – 2

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District

Range in mm	*No. of Years*	*Range in mm*	*No. of Years*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
801 – 900	2	1601 – 1700	3
901 – 1000	5	1701 – 1800	2
1001 – 1100	5	1801 – 1900	1
1101 – 1200	4	1901 – 2000	1
1201 – 1300	8	2001 – 2100	2
1301 – 1400	9	2101 – 2200	0
1401 – 1500	1	2201 – 2300	1
1501 – 1600	6		

TABLE – 3

Period Averages of Temperature and Relative Humidity

Month	*Mean Daily Maximum Temperature*	*Mean Daily Minimum Temperature*	*Highest Maximum ever recorded*		*Lowest Minimum ever recorded*		*Relative Humidity*	
							0830	*1730**
	°C	*°C*	*°C*	*Date*	*°C*	*Date*	*%*	*%*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*
January	30.7	23.4	33.5	1962 Jan 26	20.1	1973 Jan –	68	68
February	31.5	23.6	34.6	1974 Feb 22	18.8	1974 Feb 7	67	67
March	32.1	25.0	34.6	1968 Mar 24	21.7	1972 Mar 11	69	69
April	31.4	25.9	36.8	1979 Apr 30	20.9	1980 Apr 6	71	71
May	33.1	26.1	38.2	1973 May 15	21.8	1978 May 3	73	73
June	30.5	24.5	35.4	1965 Jun 3,4	21.0	1967 Jun 23	80	78
July	29.7	23.9	34.8	1976 Jul 3	19.2	1980 Jul 25	80	78
August	30.4	24.0	34.7	1969 Aug 15	21.3	1972 Aug 13	79	77
September	30.5	24.2	35.0	1978 Sep 17	21.3	1978 Sep 5	77	77
October	30.5	24.2	34.2	1963 Oct 4	20.8	1967 Oct 1	77	79
November	30.3	23.9	38.2	1973 Nov 15	20.1	1967 Nov 30	75	73
December	30.1	23.5	33.3	1968 Dec 5	19.6	1965 Dec 21		
Annual	30.1	24.3					74	73

* Hours I.S.T.

TABLE – 4

Mean Wind Speed in km./hr.

Jan (1)	Feb (2)	Mar (3)	Apr (4)	May (5)	Jun (6)	Jul (7)	Aug (8)	Sep (9)	Oct (10)	Nov (11)	Dec (12)	Annual (13)
21.8	19.4	15.1	12.7	19.0	18.7	18.6	19.3	18.3	13.9	16.1	19.5	17.7

TABLE – 5

Special Weather Phenomena

*Mean No. of days with (1)	Jan (2)	Feb (3)	Mar (4)	Apr (5)	May (6)	Jun (7)	Jul (8)	Aug (9)	Sep (10)	Oct (11)	Nov (12)	Dec (13)	Annual (14)
Thunder	0	0.2	0.6	1.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.8	0.1	5
Hail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dust-Storm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Squall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0.2

* No. of days 2 and above are given in whole numbers.

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CHAPTER – 2

HISTORY

The States Re-organisation on linguistic basis led to the emergence of the present Kanniyakumari district in 1956 which area was part and parcel of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State or to be more specific, part and parcel of the then Trivandrum district till 1956. The areas referred to as Nanjilnadu and Edanadu in Tamil and Malayalam literature form the present Kanniyakumari district.

Kanniyakumari district is comprised of four taluks, viz., Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. The area comprising Agasthiswaram and Thovalai taluks was known as Nanjilnadu and the area comprising the remaining two taluks was known as Edanadu. Though this area formed part of the Travancore State first and the Kerala State later, it maintained its own identity in its cultural as well as social and economic status.

The present district of Kanniyakumari, except during the time of the Ayis, was not a kingdom as such. Areas or pockets of the present Kanniyakumari district were at different times under the control of several Kings and chieftains.

An attempt has been made to present the history of the district by culling out the relevant events (to the present Kanniyakumari district area) from the history of the various dynasties (i.e) the Pandyas, Cholas, Nayaks and the Venad rulers, who, at one time or another had ruled the present Kanniyakumari district area or a part of it. Sources for this chapter have been mainly collected from the Travancore State Manuals of Nagam Aiya and T.K.V. Pillai, the History of Travancore of Shangunny Menon, the 'Sucindram Temple', of K.K.Pillay and the Cholas, the Pandyan Kingdom and A History of South India of K.A.N. Sastri and other relevant works of the historians on South India.

As to the origin of Nanjilnadu, there are legendary accounts in 'Keralopatti', a Malayalam work, and *'Kerala-Mahatmiyam'*, a Sanskrit work, which say that the present Kanniyakumari was well under the sea and that it was by the hard penance of Parasu Rama, one of the incarnations of Maha Vishnu, the sea water receded thus making the land available. This version runs contrary to the accounts found in Tamil

literature which say, that the southern border of Tamilagam was still farther south and it had closed into the north subsequently due to erosion. But confirming the legends, the geologists also say that it might have been possible that the land was once under the sea water. So, these legends may as well be taken as an allegoric representation of the intrusion of the Aryans into the south.[1]

PRE-HISTORY : Detailed researches and excavations are yet to be commissioned in Kanniyakumari district to bring to light the pre-historic civilization. However, researches and excavations done in the adjoining districts (i.e.) Tirunelveli Kattabomman, V.O. Chidambaranar and Madurai, confirm that there were pre- historic men 4000 years ago. So, the same situation might have prevailed in Kanniyakumari district also.

In 1945, the State Department of Archaeology, Travancore State, experimented an excavation at Vellimalai in Kalkulam taluk during which they came up with ancient urns used for burying the dead. Similar urns were also unearthed at Adhichanallur of Tirunelveli Kattabomman District, containing broken pieces of pottery and rusty iron pieces, called as *'Kunus'*, which means *"bent-backs"*. They believed that in the olden days people lived upto a ripe age and as a result their backs became bent and after death their mortal remains were placed in the urns along with some of their personal belongings such as pots, grains, iron weapons and then buried. However, a section of the Archaeologists are of the view that the urns might have been used for post-cremation burial which was practised by the Megalithic folk during the 3rd century B.C. to Ist Century A.D.. In Sangam works like *"Purananuru"* mention has also been made about *Muthu Makkal Thazhi* which means the urns of the fore-fathers.

In Poromcode, near Kaliyakkavilai, a neolithic celt was discovered which may roughly be dated to 1500 to 1000 B.C. (period of neolithic civilisation in Tamil Nadu).

A hand made coarse earthern jar and other relics were found near Thoothur village in Kanniyakumari district. The shape, fabric and the decorations indicate that they are probably of the megalithic or early historic period.

From the legends and traditions existing in these regions, it has to be believed, beyond doubt, that a great city flourished in these regions during the megalithic or early historic period and that it might have been similar to the one which existed in Mohanjadaro and Harappa. Since, the

relics of this period remained in the sea bed, it has to be believed that this civilisation was wiped out due to sea erosion.

Archaeology : The Archaeological features of the district are separately dealt below under the heads; Architecture, Sculpture and Inscriptions. Most of the archeological finds are similar to those discovered in the neighbouring districts of Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Madurai.

Architecture : The roots of the architectural style in the district can be traced to Dravidian Architecture. There are several ancient temples in the district where the style and carvings are marvellous. The outstanding examples are :

(1) The temple at Sucindram, the Gopuram of which is magnificent. The consecration of the temple took place during the reign of Maran Chadayan, an early Pandya ruler (765 AD to 815 AD.) [2]

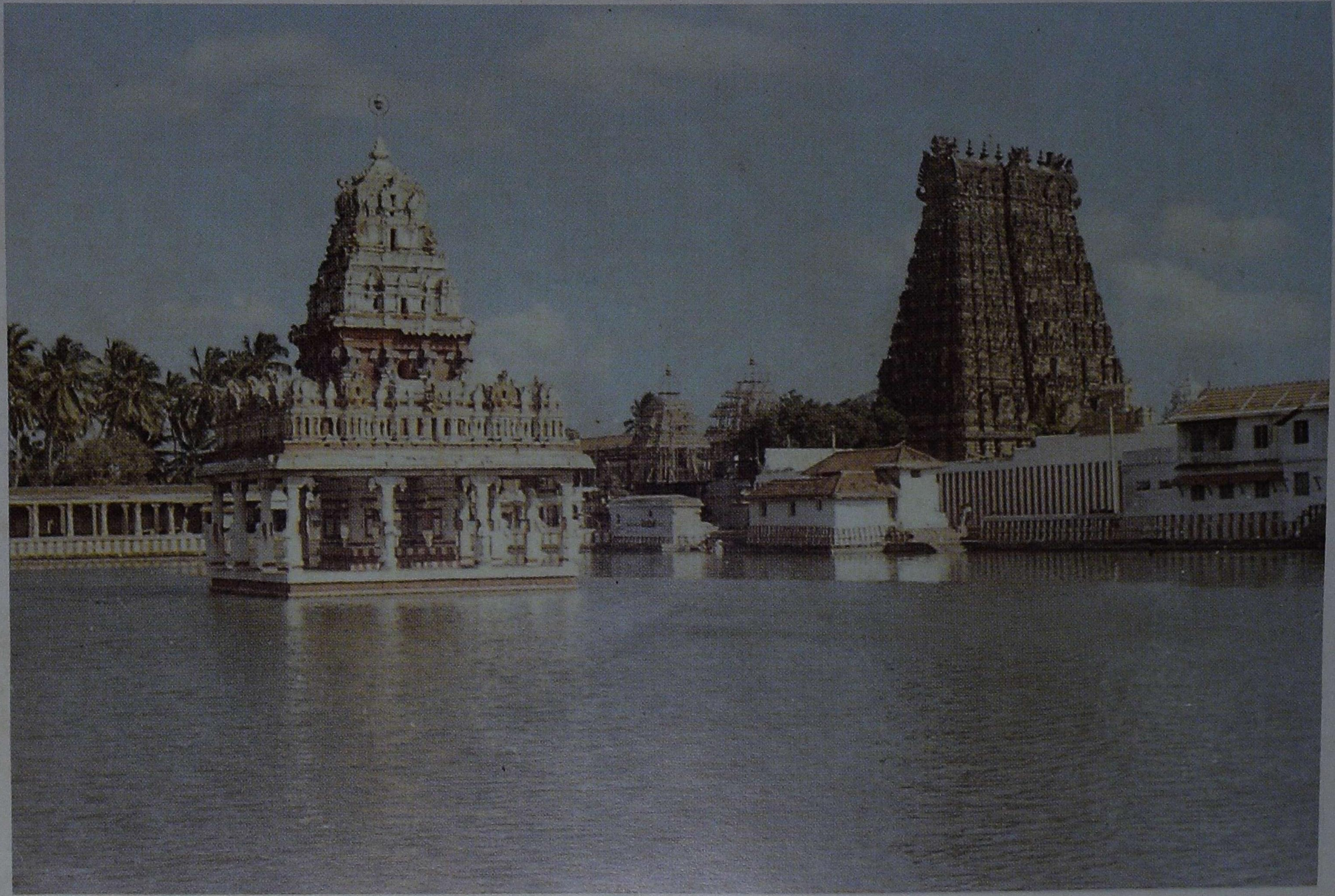
(2) The temple dedicated to Virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari Amman, at Kanniyakumari constructed during the reign of Kochchadayan, an early Pandya ruler in the 16th year (726 AD) of his reign wields a prime importance.

The ancient temples at Cholapuram, Krishnankoil, and Thiruvattar also seem to have been influenced by the Dravidian style of Architecture.

Besides, some Jain Monuments are also found at Chitaral, near Kuzhithurai in Vilavankodu taluk and the Nagaraja temple at Nagercoil. There is a small exquisite Jain temple carved out of a rock on the Thirucharanattumalai near Chitaral which has lost its Jain influence and today it has become a shrine frequented by the Hindus.

In the Nagaraja temple at Nagercoil, there is a pleasant combination of Jain Kerala and Dravidian style, of architecture. This remained as Jain temple until 1522 AD and later it was consecrated as a Hindu temple.[3]

Sculpture : There are two schools of sculpture in the District, viz., the Jain and the Brahminical. Most of the Jain sculptures are in the form of bas-reliefs. The twenty four Thirthankaras of Jainism are seen represented by way of bas-reliefs in temples, the notable ones being the sculptures at the Bagawathi Amman Temple of Thirucharanattumalai where the Jain iconography features are very distinct.



Magnificient Gopuram of Suchindrum Temple and Teppakulam

The Brahmanical school of sculptures are rich in the Hindu temples of the district e.g. the temple at Sucindram is a fine specimen.

Inscriptions : Many inscriptions of historical value have been discovered in the district especially in temples, which date back to the Eighth Century AD. The inscriptions are mostly in Tamil and the script employed is either the Vatteluttu or the old Tamil Alphabet.

BEGINNING OF THE HISTORY : The accounts left by the foreign travellers in India and the Sangam works throw light on the ancient history of the present Kanniyakumari district area. The Phoenicians who were some time the masters of the Mediterranean were attracted by the sandal wood and spices available in this region (i.e) Kanniyakumari district area and its surroundings. Therefore, they extensively travelled in this part of this land and they were the first among the foreigners to mention about the present Kanniyakumari district area. In the accounts of Eratosthenes [4] who visited India in about 276 B.C. Kanniyakumari is mentioned. An anonymous author in his book named "Periplus of Erythrean Sea" (81-96 AD) refers to Kanniyakumari. In this 'Komari' is mentioned as a harbour and the land to the South of 'Nelcynda' upto Komari is said to be part of the Pandyan Kingdom.[5] Nelcynda has been identified with Kallada by Col. Yule and with Nindakara near Quilon by K.G. Sesha Aiyar. But according to K.K. Pillay, neither seems to be correct, because as per Periplus, Nelcynda is at a distance of 500 *"stadii"* from Mouzirs, while both Kallada and Nindakara are more than 800 stadii away from Kumari. However, Kanakasabhai Pillai identifies it with Nirkundram near Minacil and which is in agreement with the opinion of K.K. Pillay.

Ptolemy was the next European visitor who had referred to this region in his book 'Geography' which was compiled about 140 A.D. According to him, the Kingdom of the Ayis flourished to the South of the Chera Kingdom and it extended from Nelcynda (obviously identical to Nelcynda of the Periplus) to 'Komari'. The 'Komari' referred to by him was nothing but the past 'Komaria' mentioned by the Periplus, which was under the Pandyas. This leads us to conclude that the Ayis had conquered the territory from the Pandyas.

The period of the conquest of the Ayis is said to be between 96 A.D. and 140 A.D. but other details about them are not dealt with.

NANJIL NADU AND THE AYI DYNASTY : The earliest known rulers of this region belonged to the Ayi dynasty, whose remote ancestors are referred to as the 'Hida Raja' in the Asokan Rock Edicts II and XIV. The term 'Hida' is the variation of 'Ida' or 'Idaya' a synonym of 'Ayar' which takes its singlular form as 'AYI'. Probably the region around 'Pothiyil' mountains was ruled by them. Thus the antiquity of the 'Ayis' dates back to 250 B.C. and possibly still earlier. The mention of them in the Asokan Edicts along with the Cholas, Pandyas, Cheras and Sathiyaputras as independent rulers outside the Mauryan dominion, enhanced their importance.

As mentioned earlier, the Periplus of Erythrean Sea (81-96 AD) refers to the region extending from Nelcynda to Kanniyakumari being ruled by the Pandyas. Ptolemy (140 AD), a Greek Geographer says that one "Aioi" was ruling this country which comprised of Cape Comorin and Mount Bettigo (Mount Pothiyil?), which gives a clue that the Ayis were the vassals to the Pandyas during the period of Periplus and only later, they would have asserted their independence. During the period of Ptolemy Nanjil Nadu as was seen remained as buffer state between the Cheras and the Pandyas.

Ayi Andiran : He was one of the many Vel Chieftains who ruled over several parts of the Tamil country. Legends are many about the ancestry of the Vel Cheiftains. To mention one, they are said to have issued from a 'Homakundam'.[6] Domain of Ayi Andiran was the area around the Pothiyil Hill which is the Southern most section of the Western Ghats.

Elusive as they are, the information available in the Sangam Works, do not help in concluding definitely about the Ayis and their rule. 'Purananuru' speaks of one Ayi Andiran who is also known as Vel Ayi and Mavel Ayi.

According to V.V. Swaminatha Iyer, Ayikudi, then a principal town, (now a hamlet near Shenkottai) was presumably the capital of the Ayis. But Gopinatha Rao[7] disagrees with Swaminatha Iyer for the reason that in Ayikudi, no traces of either palaces or forts could be seen and so it could never have been a capital[8]. His argument, however, is weak since the absence of structures does not preclude one to come to the

conclusion that the place could not have been a capital. For example Puhar and Karur have no old monuments or structures, yet they are accepted as capitals taking into account of the other factors which lend conclusive proof to the issue.

Ayi Andiran was a powerful sovereign among the Ayars (Shepherd tribe). He patronised Tamil poets especially Mudamosiyar, Kuttuvan Kiranar and Odaikilar, who have sung his praises. Another poet Karaikannanar of the same period also refers to him in "Narrinai". Mudamosiar who has also sung about the Chola King Mudittalai-Ko-Perunarkilli and the Chera Sovereign Antuvan Cheral, serves as a link to establish the contemporaneity of Ayi Andiran with the Chola and Chera Kings of the same period[9]. According to computation reckoned on the basis of the Gajabhahu-Senguttuvan Synchronism,* which is the 'Sheet anchor' to the history of Tamil Nadu, there is an indication about the period of Antuvan Cheral which is about 100 to 120 AD. approximately.[10] This leads to conclude that Andiran also ruled more or less during the same period (i.e.) AD 100 to 120. But, according to K.N. Sivarajapillai, the probable date is AD I to AD 25.[11]

Titiyan : The successor of Ayi Andiran could not be well established still. But in Sangam literature one Titiyan is referred to as 'Pothiyirchelvan' by the poet king Bhuthapandyan. However, K.N. Sivarajapillai considers Titiyan I as the successor to Ayi Andiran.[12] But, the undisputable fact is that Titiyan was one of the successors of Ayi Andiran.[13]

In one of his poems, King Bhutha-Pandyan acknowledges the supremacy of Titiyan, as a ruler of an extensive mountain dominion.[14] The following is the excerpt from the poem :

"வருவா வாழி தோழி பொருநர்
செல்சமர் கடந்த வில்கெழ தடக்கைப்

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* **Gajabahu Senguttuvan Synchronism** : Silappathikaram mentions various kings who attended the consecration of the image of Pattinidevi and Gajabhahu the King of Ceylon, was one. According to Mahavamsa, Gajabhahu was reigning between AD 173 and 191. So we can reasonably assign that Senguttuvan's period of reign to 2nd century AD. K.G. Sesha Aiyar says that he has no hesitation for recording this as the 'Sheet Anchor' of early South Indian History. It is accepted by most of the eminent historians such as K.N. Sivaraja Pillai, K.K. Pillay, K.A.N. Sastri and others. ('Sesha Aiyar K.G. The Chera Kings of the Sangam Period' (1937) pp.119–121).

பொதியிற் செல்வன் பொலந்தேர்த் திதிய
வின்னிசை யியத்திற் கறங்குங்
கன்மிசை யருவிய காடிறந் தோரே"[15]

There is another lead also in the 'Purananuru' by Mudamoziyar which says that the Ayis were independent rulers. The hymn is as below :[16]

"கழறொடி யாஅய் மழைதவழ் பொதியி
வாடுமகள் குறுகி னல்லது
பிடகெழு மன்னர் குறுகலோ வரிதே"

Inspite of Titiyan's supremacy, Bhuthapandyan, his contemporary, was able to penetrate into Titiyan's territory and also named a village after him viz.,Bhuthapandi and which name the village still goes to be called so and also constructed a temple in this village. Perhaps, these led to an understanding between Titiyan and the Pandyan, fixing Bhuthapandy as the western limit of the Pandyan Kingdom.[17] Attempts to determine the period of Bhuthapandyan and that of Titiyan, have proved futile. However, K.N. Sivaraja Pillai[18] assigns the date of Titiyan between AD 25 to 50.

Atiyan : According to K.N. Sivaraja Pillai, Atiyan succeeded Titiyan who ruled between AD 50 to AD 75 [19] He has ascribed this date drawing support from 'Purananuru' in which there is a reference to the victory of Pasumpon Pandyan against one Atiyan.[20] He further says that in Neyyattinkara Taluk there is a village named Atiyanur and so also Azhakiya Pandiyapuram in Tovala Taluk was known as Atiyanur and that these villages owe their names to Atiyan. But, K.K. Pillay disputes this view and says, "Lacking in conclusive evidence these surmises are nothing, if not venturesome. It is true that a village in Neyyatinkara Taluk, bears the name Atiyanur and that the older name of Azhakiapandiyapuram in Tovala Taluk, was Atiyanur. But these etymological data cannot lead us far, especially when neither in 'Ahananuru' nor anywhere else is any reference to show that Atiyan was a ruler of Pothiyil Hills or that he belonged to the Ayi dynasty. On the other hand, Atiyan may plausibily be identified with Atiyaman of Tagadur."[21]

Titiyan II : During the period of Atiyan, the Ayis struggled hard to become independent of the Pandyas.Titiyan - II probably had succeded

Atiyan to the throne and was responsible for the formation of a confederacy against the Pandiya ruler Nedunchezhiyan-III, which ultimately culminated in the famous battle of Talayalanganam. Titiyan-II took advantage of the confedaracy to eschew the Pandya yoke, but his efforts were fruitless since Nedunchezhiyan-III was so formidable a foe. The Talayalanganam battle appears to have sealed the fate of the once powerful Ayi Kingdom. The reign of Titiyan II according to K.N. Sivaraja Pillai was from AD 75 to AD 125 but according to K.A.N Sastri ,[22] it was about AD 210.

As a result of this battle, the Pothiyil country was fragmented into petty chieftaincies like Vattaru and Nanjilnadu, which Elini Atan and one Valluvan Kandan ruled respectively. They are referred to in literature which relate to the period immediately after the battle of Talayalanganam. Ptolemy (AD 140) refers to the regions comprised of the middle and south Travancore (the present area of Kanniyakumari District) as the Aioi (Ayi) country. In all probability, the name Ayi lingered for a considerable period even after their complete wipe out from Talayalanganam. This would have perhaps prompted Ptolemy to mention the region as the Ayi Country. But, if the date of the battle assigned by K.A.N. Sastri is accepted, then Ptolemy's account has to be construed to have been written earlier.

K.K. Pillay is of the view that there is a gap in the history of Ayis after Titiyan - I (Pothiyir Chelvan). [23] But since they reappear in the history of the 8th century AD it is likely that during the intervening period, the Ayis had been reduced, to the position of local Chieftains by the Cheras in the North. The fact, that the Ayis of the 8th century were the rulers of Kurunadu (the area surrounding Tiruvidaikkodu), indicates that they had no place in the Pothiyil Hills.

Nanjil Porunan : The impression we gain from the songs in praise of one Nanjil Porunan, by the Sangam poets, Marudan Ilanaganar, Avvaiyar, Oruchirai Periyanar and Karuvur Kadapillai, is that he ruled over a part of Nanjilnadu. He is described as 'Nanjil Valluvan' by a commentator of 'Purananuru', while his original name was Kandan. The term 'Porunan' stands for king. But as, it appears it is the family name of the Chieftain.

He was a vassal ruler and whether he owed allegiance to the Cheras or the Pandyas is a subject of controversy. Swaminatha Aiyar is of the view that he was a vassal of the Cheras, while K.K. Pillay opines that his suzerain must have been the Pandya.[24]

On the basis of the Senguttuvan - Gajabhahu Synchronism,[25] the date of Nanjil Porunan is fixed as the 3rd Century AD and more particularly the latter half. But, according to the Synchronistic Tables of K.N. Sivaraja Pillai, the period of Nanjil Porunan is between AD 150 and 175.

Information about the successor of Nanjil Porunan is not available. Atikanur , a village located at the foot of the Nanjil Hill came to be called as Azhakiapandiyapuram. As to who brought about the change in the name is a matter of controversy. According to K .K. Pillay, it is not improbable that Pasumponpandiyan who conquered northern Nanjilnadu might have renamed Atikanur as Azhakiyapandiyapuram, since, "Azhakiya " may be taken as an equivalent to Pasumpon.[26]

NANJILNADU UNDER EARLY PANDYAS : An opinion afloat is that the term *'Then Pandinadu'* could only be Nanjilnadu, which was the then Tamil speaking area of South Travancore lying to the south west of Tirunelveli and to the north west of Kanniyakumari.[27] There are ample evidences in literature and inscriptions to show that Pandyas were always in contact with Nanjilnadu. For instance, Kanniyakumari, the holy town at the 'Land's End' of India, was part of the Pandyan Empire for a long time. 'Divakaram' a Tamil lexicon, speaks of a *Pandya King as the Lord of* Kanniyakumari (குமரி சேர்பன்). Maduraikanchi, a literary work lends support to the view that Kanniyakumari was in possession of the Pandyas. 'Purananuru' mentions the Pandya ruler as the lord of the Pahruli river which had its confluence with the sea at Kanniyakumari. Besides early inscriptions also mention Nanjilnadu as part of the Pandya Empire. Vadimbalambaninra Pandyan, it is said, by his engineering skill harnessed the course of this river.[29] The Goddess Kanniyakumari was regarded as the family deity of the Pandyas.[30]

So, it has to be put forward that extension of the domain of the Pandyas upto Nanjilnadu could have been after Ptolemy's visit (AD 140) to this part of our country.

It is also certain that the supremacy of the reign north of Kanniyakumari was contested by the mighty Pandyas and the Chieftains belonging to the Ayi Family, which fact the frequent wars in the area between the Pandyas and the Ayi Chieftains testify.

It is true that right from the age of Tamil Sangam, Nanjilnadu was the cockpit. The Aralvoimozhi pass was the entry point of the invading

Pandyas. Ollaiyur Bhuthapandyan was known to be the earliest Pandya ruler to invade Nanjilnadu. In Keralotpatti, a Malayalam literature, this has been mentioned. However, it is not known how far he invaded into Nanjilnadu but upto Bhoothapandi seems indisputable, as this village was named after him to mark his conquest.

NANJILNADU AND THE FIRST PANDYA EMPIRE

The First Empire of the Pandyas held a paramount position in the South from the 7th to the early part of the 10th centuries AD. The history of the First Pandya Empire was written with the help of 'Velvikkudi Grant' of Paranthaka Nedum Sadayan, the larger and smaller Sinnamanur plates of Rajasimha, the Madras Museum plates of Jatilavarman and other inscriptions of the Pandya kings.[31] The ephigraphical sources available for this period in Nanjilnadu are very little and the available few speak only of the Pandya invasions and therefore, they are not much helpful. Though, the chronology of the first Pandya Empire is not unanimously accepted, K.A.N. Sastri presents the following Chronology[32] :

1.	Kadungon	AD 560–590
2.	Maravarman Avani Sulamani	AD 590–620
3.	Sendan	AD 620–650
4.	Arikesari Parankusa Maravarman	AD 650–700
5.	Koccadaiyan	AD 700–730
6.	Maravarma Rajasimha	AD 730–765
7	Jatila Parantaka Nedum Sadayan	AD 765–815
8.	Sri Mara Sri vallabha	AD 815–862
9.	Varaguna–II	AD 862–885
10.	Paranthaka Viranarayanan	AD 860-905
11.	Maravarman Rajasimha–II	AD 905-920

Sendan : Among the kings mentioned in the Velvikkudi Grant, the earliest king to pass through Nanjilnadu to invade Kerala is the Pandya King Sendan or Jayantavarman. Since he had taken the title 'Vanavan' which was the distinctive application of the Cheras, it is inferred that he had his supremacy over the Cheras. There is a temple dedicated to Sendayiswaramudaiyar connecting the name of the Pandya ruler at Talakudy near Sucindram. There is a temple near Azhakiapandiapuram known as Jayandanar Koil and a village near Sucindram called Sendanpudur which name can be correlated to the Pandya ruler.

Arikesari Maravarman : Arikesari Maravarman was identified with Kun or Sundarapandyan who was otherwise as per Tamil Literature, known as Ninrasir Nedumaran. He was said to have been converted by Saint Sambandar from a Jina to Saiva. He is mentioned in the Velvikkudi and larger Sinnamanur plates. He invaded Nanjilnadu and emerged victorious at Pali, Nelveli, Sennilam and Puliyur.[33]

His invasion against the Paravas and Kurunadu turned favourable to him. Nelveli is identified with Tirunelveli by Dr. Hultzh and Venkayya. However, it may be more appropriately identified with Nelveli in Kurunadu, the stronghold of the Ayis.[34] It is seen in the commentary of Irayanar Ahapporal that *Vilinam* and Kottai besides several other places, were captured by him.[35] The significance of his conquest lies in the fact that he had annexed portions of Nanjilnadu which his predecessor could not.

Kocchadayan : Kocchadayan otherwise known as Ranadhira the son and successor of Arikesarimaravarman, was a famous warrior. The titles Vanavan, Sembiyan, Kongarkon and Cholan were the exclusive adornments of the Cheras and Cholas respectively. But since this ruler held these titles it implies his conquest over the Cheras and Cholas. Velvikkudi Grant mentions about a victory against his Ayi Vel contemporary and rival at Marudur. Many writers identifies Marudur as Tiruppudai Marudur near Ambasamudram. However, it appears not probable for this brave Pandya ruler to allow an enemy to advance into the heart of his empire (i.e.) Ambasamudram. So, it is but appropriate that this Marudur is identified with Marudattur in Kurunadu.[36]

Velvikkuddi plates also refer to other victories of Kocchadaiyan over Ayivel at Sengodi and at Pudankodu. But, Krishna Sastri is of the view that these two names denote only the regalia of the Ayi king and not the battle fields which view is acceptable to K.A.N. Sastri.[37] But, K.K pillay says that Sengodi and Pudankodu are really two villages in Kurunadu.[38] Though no battle is specified to have been fought on the soil of Nanjilnadu, the defeat of this Ayi ruler must have meant the triumph to the Pandyas over Nanjilnadu as well. There is also an inscription of this Pandya king dated the 16th regnal year in the temple at Kanniyakumari.

Jatilaparantaka : Jatilaparantaka, the grandson of Kocchadaiyan was also known as Maran Chadayan as seen in the Anamalai inscriptions. He organised invasions against the Ayi Chieftain "the Ayi Vel" and the chieftains who had joined hands with him. The Velvikkudi Plates refer to his victory at Nattukkurumbu against an 'Ayivel' and his associates. [39] The Madras Museum Plates specifically mention that the Pandya ruler defeated Ayivel and did him to death, destroyed Vilinam his capital (probably in 773 AD) and captured the elephants, horses, family members, treasure etc.,

During the 23rd regnal year of the Pandya, a descendent of the Ayis, one Chadayan Karunandan started a rebellion in a bid to win back the prestige of his clan but his attempt failed as he was defeated by the Pandya at Ariviyurkottai which is identified as Aruvikkarai in Kurunadu.

Jatilaparantaka still not satisfied with his conquests, set out to annex Malainadu to his empire. As is seen from the Trivandrum stone inscriptions, the Pandya did not succeed in his attempt. Probably, the Cheras who had come to the rescue of the Ayis were able to hold back the Pandyas at Karaikkottai which now goes by the name of Aralvoimozhi.[40]

Sri Mara Srivallabha Pandya : Sri Mara Sri Vallabha succeeded Jatilaparantaka. He nurtured an aggressive policy against the Cheras and the Ayis at whose hand his predecessor Jatilaparantaka met defeat. Sri Mara Srivallabha led an expedition against the Cheras and he penetrated into the Chera country as far as Kunnur and Vilinam without any encounter in Nanjilnadu which amounts to the recognition of the Pandya supremacy by the Ayis, tacitly. [41] This is highlighted in the larger Sinnamanur plates.

The decline of the Pandyas : Varakunavarman succeeded Sri Mara Srivallabha and in turn he was succeeded, by his brother Viranarayana Chadayan (about 880 AD). The numerous inscriptions of this ruler in Kanniyakumari district speak to the fact that it was under the sway of the Pandyas, despite the feeble resistance offered by the Ayi Chieftains.

Pandya Viranarayanan was actively associated with Sucindram as is seen from the early inscriptions in the Sucindram temple. The two villages near Sucindram, Viranarayanaseri and

Veeranarayanamangalam, perhaps owe their names to this Pandya ruler. Vanavan Mahadevi, a Chera princess was his consort and this suggests his close ties with Kerala.[42]

Rajasimha, the illustrious donor of the large Sinnamanur plates, succeeded Vira Narayana by 900 AD. It is evident that he ruled over the Nanjilnadu for 16 years. In 920 AD, Parantaka Chola-I defeated this Pandya ruler, who took refuge in Srilanka and thus the eclipse of the supremacy could be seen.

Later Ayis : Subsequent to the Sangam age, the first reference about the Ayi ruler that we come across, is about Sadayan.[43]

During the rule of the later Ayis, the Pandyas formed themselves into a formidable power on the eastern borders of Ayi kingdom. In the North, the domain of the Ayis was bordered by the kingdom of the Cheras. Tiruvattar and several other places in the south was under the Ayis. The Ayi territory therefore, formed an effective buffer state between the Pandyas and the Cheras. The decline of the Ayis made it possible for the Pandyas to launch an attack against the Cheras and the Cholas followed suit. But, the Pandyas were firm in their resolve to engulf the Ayi territory. However, their victory against the Ayis was short lived, as seen from the instances of renewal of hostility which go to show that the Ayis also stuggled much to remain independent.

Sadayan and Karunandan. Kazhukumalai inscription speaks of Sadayan and his son Karunandan as the Ayi rulers of the second half of the eighth century. They were contemporary of the Pandya ruler Jatilaparantakah (vide-account under the heading "Jatilaparantaka").

Karunandakkan : According to P.N. Kunjanpillai, Karunandakkan ascended the Ayi throne in 857 AD and his kingdom extending approximately from Tiruppappur in the North upto Nagercoil in the South.[44] While Kanniyakumari, Sucindram. Kottar and Nagercoil were under the Pandyas Colachel Munchirai and Tiruvattar, formed the Ayi Kingdom. Villinan served as the capital of the Ayi Kingdom[45]. Some of the inscriptions of this ruler have been unearthed at Thiruvidaikkoddu. K.K. Pillay says that Thiruvidaikkodu was once the seat of the Ayis who were considered to have built the Vishnu temple at Parthivapuram at Vilavankodu Taluk. According to an inscription, Karunandakkan had acquired a place called Ulagudivilai from the sabha of Munichirai, built a Vishnu temple there and named the place

as Parthivapuram. He also started a vedic school (Salai) and made provisions for imparting free education, free boarding and lodging for about 96 students.

Vikramaditya Varaguna (AD 885 to 925) : Another noteworthly ruler of the latter Ayis was Vikramaditya Varaguna, successor of Karunandakkan. He is the donor of the famous Palliam copper plates. His rule came to an end by AD 295 and with him the glory of the Ayis doused since after him there is no reference about the independent Ayis in History. It was during his period, the Pandya ruler Rajasimha-II was defeated by Parantaka Chola and therefore, Nanijilnadu fell into the hands of the Cholas. His period witnessed the rising paramountcy of the Cholas.

The important characteristics of his reign was marked by his religious tolerance. A Hindu by himself his tolerance towards the other religions knew no bounds. Buddhism flourished simultaneously. The Pallipalayam copper plates have recorded his gift to the famous Buddhist temple at Thirunullapadam (Kerala). The inscriptions of this ruler found at Chitral (Vilavankodu Taluk) record his gifts to a jain temple at Thirucharanattumalai in Kanniyakumari district is ascribed to his period.

Administration of the Ayis : As it was the order of the day, monarchy was the form of the Ayis rule. The eldest son succeeded to the throne. The Ayi Kingdom was divided into Nadus which were further sub-divided into Desams and each Nadu was put under the control of an officer designated as "Kizhavan" (Able bodied man) whose main responsilbilty was maintenance of law and order in their respective regions.

For crimes committed, the common punishment was imposition of fines, which were of gold occasionally. The fines collected were remitted into the Royal treasuries. There were Sabhas probably meant for the administration of temples and for local administration. As regards education, it was not confined to the Pandya and Chola dominions alone which was something remarkable. However, it was the Brahmin community which stood benefited mostly. Sucindram and Nanjilnadu, which flourished under the Ayis were equally famous for running such institutions (e.g.) the salai of Munchirai, the Srivallabhaperumchalai at Kanniyakumari and the celebrated Kandalur Salai.

Apart from the salais or schools, there was also scope for popular education side by side. The spacious Mandapams or halls of the temples served as class rooms where religious instructions were imparted. In the temple of Sucindram, Mahabharatha Kazhakam was said to have functioned.

THE CHOLAS

Paranthaka Chola I defeated the Pandyas. Though there are no reference about these battles at Nanjilnadu, during the 10th century AD, the inscriptions of Paranthaka I (AD 907 to 953) at Sucindram temple, however lends support to this presumption.

The rise of the Cholas was not sudden and eventless. There was the Rashtrakuta invasion which resulted in the historic battle fought at Takkolam in which the Cholas had to suffer humiliation. This state of affairs in the Chola territory was cashed in on by one Virapandya, a Pandya scion, to re-establish the Pandya supremacy in the South, and acclaim himself as "Cholan Thalaikonda Virapandya" meaning one who had taken the head of the Chola, (சோழன் தலைகொண்ட வீர பாண்டியன்) But the identity of the Chola ruler who was beheaded remains unestablished.

His was a meteoric rise, but at the sametime his monarchy did not last long since Aditya, the son of Paranthaka Chola captured Virapandya and executed him.

Raja Raja the Great : The organised Chola invasion against Nanjilnadu took place only during the reign of Raja Raja. He began his military exploits from his 4th regnal year. He succeeded in subduing the whole of Tamil Nadu, even parts of Deccan and the neighbouring Islamic kingdoms.

A controversy still lingers on the question of the first conquest of Raja Raja whether it is Vilinam or Madurai.

K. K. Pillay is of the view that his first attack was against Madurai and his view bears testimony to the attack in the Tiruvalangadu Plates.

A third view that Raja Raja attacked Kandalursalai (Kerala) first and later Madurai, is supported by the Prasastis மெய் கீர்த்திகள்) of Raja Raja. The appearance of the inscriptions of Raja Raja in Kanniyakumari District

which are dated two years earlier than those in Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Ramanathapuram Districts lends support to this view.

K.A.N. Sastri is of the view that it is possible that the Thiruvalangadu plates and other Prasastis of Raja Raja had mixed up facts relating to several district campaigns against the southern country.[47] However, one fact emerges clearly (i.e) that Raja Raja led more than one expedition against the Pandya and his ally the Chera of which especially one seems to have been directed against Kollam. It is seen from the Tanjore inscription that this is an altogether different campaign and bears no reference to Kandalur and Vilinam battles.

The earliest inscription of Raja Raja discovered at Darsanampoke in the district relates to his 8th regnal year. This was followed by the discovery of the inscriptions in the Sucindram temple which relate to his 10th and 14th regnal years. The fact to be noted is that in the inscriptions of the 10th regnal year, Sucindram is mentioned as Nanjilnattu Tiruchivindram whereas in the inscriptions of the 14th regnal year, it has been mentioned as "Raja Raja Valanattu Tiruchivindram". Taking note of this K.K. Pillay views, that Nanjilnadu was brought under the Chola supremacy gradually between the 10th and 14th regnal years of Raja Raja[48]. In the later Chola inscriptions, Nanjilnadu is mentioned as a sub-division of "Uttama Chola Valanadu" which was a district comprised in Raja Raja Pandinadu, which suggests the complete colonization of Najilnadu by the Cholas.

The celebrated Raja Raja, besides his territorial ambitions set his mind to earn the good will of the people of the lands, which he conquered; and so set about introducing welfare measures such as improving the positions of the temples and making them pivot of the social and religious life. He showered gifts on the temples, and made provisions for feeding the Brahmins. He established the Devadasi system. It was instituted with the noble intention of serving God. But, later, it lost its originality and began to be frowned upon and at last it was abolished in the present century. He encouraged recitation of devotional hymns of Devaram and Thiruvasakam in temples and popularised religious festival and ceremories. An inscription at Kanniyakumari relating to the 34th year of his reign records the erection of a shed for supplying drinking water by one Jayamkondacholan which name Raja Raja earned in the later years of his reign.

Rajaraja's God abiding nature is regarded as a master builder of temples and the colossal Brahadiswara temple at Tanjore is an outstanding monumental proof and in Kanniyakumari District the Sucindram pagoda received touches.

Rajendra Chola : Rajendra Chola, the worthy son of Raja Raja strengthened the Chola authority in Nanjilnadu. A Siva temple at Cholapuram, 5 km. east of Sucindram built by one of the officials of Rajendra was christened as Rajendra Cholesewaram. His epigraphs have been discovered at Kanniyakumari and Therur.

Simultaneously, the Sucindram temple also received his patronage. There is also an inscription of his period here. The rechristening of Vilinam as Rajendracholapattinam bears testimony that his supremacy was acknowledged even beyond the south of Nanjilnadu.

Chola pandya Vice regal system : Rajendra was not only a warrior but also an efficient administrator. Very early in his reign, he appointed his son Rajadhiraja as 'Yuvaraja' to assist him in the work of the State. Adopted in the first instance, possibly as a device to obviate disputed succession, the system of choosing a successor in the life time of the ruling king and associating him, after a formal installation, in the discharge of important public duties pointed the way under the stress of empire to a more deliberate and extensive-application of the principles to the administrative arrangements of the empire. The princes of the blood royal who had come of age were appointed to positions of authority in the different provinces of the empire, care being taken to give to each, the position suited to his capacity and talent.

In the early years of his reign, Rajendra seems to have been assisted only by one such subordinate ruler with jurisdiction over the Pandya and Kerala countries. This wise system initiated by Rajendra-I, by finding suitable occupation for the energies of restless princes of the royal family, doubtless allayed their discontent, diminished the chances of palace intrigues and revolutions and at the same time brought new strength to the administration of an evergrown empire which was called upon to face many difficult problems, domestic and foreign. [49]

The effective retainment of the territories conquered in the South by Rajaraja is proved by the inscriptions in Pandya country. The

Thiruvalangadu plates, though the statement is vague-say that Rajendra appointed his own son at Madurai as his Viceroy, with the title Chola pandya. The same inscriptions reveal that the Chola Pandyan Viceroy who was soon after placed incharge of the Kerala country as well was Jata Varma Sundara Chola Pandya to whose time belong the largest number of the Chola Pandya inscriptions so far known [50].

For nearly half a century, the Southern part of the Pandya Kingdom including Nanjilnadu was governed by the Chola-Pandya Viceroys, with Maduri as their headquaters.[51] Inscriptions say so, about four of such viceroys.

Jatavarma Sundara Chola Pandya : The first Chola Pandya Viceroy in the South was Jatavarma Sundara Chola, the son of Rajendra. He was appointed in AD 1018 (according to some, in AD 1019). Inscriptions bearing his name are seen in Tiruvidhankodu, Cholapuram, and Sucindram. Besides, there are also inscriptions in the neighbouring district of Tirunelveli. The inscriptions at Tiruvidhankodu speak of his authority which extended upto Kurunadu.

The Sucindram inscription is particularly important as the village itself was described as Sundarachola Chathurvedhi Mangalam, obviously, named after the Viceroy himself [52]

The curious fact, not easy to explain, is the record of a grant at Kottar (Near Nagercoil) by an Eastern Chalukya prince, who called himself Sarvalokasraya Sri Vishnu Varthana Maharaja *alias* Chalukya Vijayaditya Vikkiyannan. The inscription is dated the 11th year of Sundarachola's Viceroyalty (1029 AD). Kottar in those days was a fortress with a strong garrison of strategic importance. K.A.N. Sastri, says that it is possible that an Eastern Chalukya prince who held an important role in the army lived in Kottar for some years. However, the identity of the Prince, is yet to be established.

Jatavarman Udaiyar Sri Chola Pandya : Jattavarma Udaiyar Sri Chola Pandya was another Viceroy in the south representing the Chola Empire. He is probably identical with the prince, Gangaikonda Chola appointed as Viceroy by Vira Rajendara. There are two stone inscriptions of this ruler in Sucindram temple, of which the latest relates to his 25th regnal year which is ultimate evidence for his long period of viceroyalty.

Maravarman Udaiyar Sri Vikrama : Maravarman Udaiyar Sri Vikrama was a later Chola Pandya Viceroy in the south. Two of his inscriptions are found in Kanniyakumari. It is most likely in the village Alur 11 Km. North-west of Sucindram took its name as Vikramachola Pandyapuram after this Viceroy [53] .

Exact dates of the rule of the later two Viceroys have not yet been definitely assessed. However, Nanjilnadu was under the Chola Pandya Viceroys between 1019 and 1070 AD.

The system of appointing the Chola Pandya Viceroy in the South came to an end, with the ascent of Kulottunga-I, to the throne.

Kulottunga—I : Kulottunga was the first Chola-Chalukya[54] monarch to ascend the Chola throne. Kulottunga—I was the next Chola ruler to figure prominently in the history of Kanniyakumari district after Rajendra—I.

Kulottunga tried to give a fresh impetus to the Chola imperialism. He undertook several expeditions, but he lost Vengi in the north. So, without wasting time to reconquer it, he concentrated on consolidating his position in the south and the west.

There are sources, both epigraphic and literary, which furnish details about his campaign in the south. For example the inscriptions at Tirukkazhukkundram describes how he defeated the "five Pandyas" seized the "pearl fisheries" and the Pothyil regions and reduced Kottar to ashes.[55] The "Vikramacholanula" corroborates the events. The "Kalingathuparani" elaborates like how the post Vilinam and Kandalursalai were razed down [56] .

He devised a method of consolidation of the conquered territories. He garrisoned the strategic points of his dominion of which Kottar was one, which he himself burnt down, during the conquest. But, the garrisons functioned with a difference. (i.e.) it was set up for the collection of the tribute due to him, but not to interfere in the affairs of the local administration. Inscriptions belonging to his period are found at Cholapuram, Agasthiswaram, Sucindram, Variyur, Kanniyakumari and Kottar. [57]

The end of Kulottunga's reign witnessed the beginning of the disintegration of the mighty Chola Empire, due to the infringement of the Western Chalukyas in the north and the Hoysalas in the west. One Parantaka Pandya the son and successor of Maravarman Parakrama Pandya acclaimed himself as the ruler, which information we got from the inscriptions found at Kanniyakumari. In his epigraph, he has recorded the caputure of Kulam of Telinga Bhima and subjugation of South Kalinga, both identical with those subdued by Vikrama Chola, son of Kulottungal [58]

It is probable that as the feudatory of the Chola Empire, Parantaka Pandya helped Vikrama Chola in this expedition. [59] The inscriptions of Parantaka Pandya State that he had defeated the Chera and Kupaka rulers and captured Vilinam and Kandalur Salai. They also speak of his administrative reforms such as introduction of new weights and measures and his efficient administration. He gifted 10 beautiful golden lamps to the God of Anandapuram. Above all, it is stated that he had ruled over all the quarters of the globe. But K.K. Pillay says that the "Wild exaggeration" vitiates the reliability as well as the credibility of the inscription and perhaps he undertook only a march from Kanniyakumari towards Trivandrum and won triumphs at Villinam and Kandalur salai [60].

VENAD KINGS

Kulottungas reign in Nanjilnadu witnessed the reemergence of the Venad power over a sizeable portion of Nanjilnadu, due to the feeble Chola authority in the south. So far the identity of the Venad king who had accomplished this task has not been satisfactorily established. However, K. K. pillay says that it is not unlikely that the Venad ruler who had completed the task was Vira Kerala Verma [61]. Many legends afloat refer to the establishment of Venad Supremacy in the first quarter of 12th Century AD.

It is said that there is an inscription engraved on the granite base of the Pandyan Anai (dam) of the Paralai, which records this achievement. That epigraph is said to state that in AD 1116, a Kupaka King conquered Kottar and the whole of Nanjilnadu from the Pandyan King Rajasimha[62]. A popular ballad[63] current in Nanjilnadu corroborates this event.

According to Nagam Aiya[64] the Manuscript records in Padmanabhaswamy temple adverts to this incident, although the date of the event entered therein is 282 M.E., which probably is a mistake for 292 ME (AD 1116)[65].

But, when we consider all these things, many doubts remain uncleared. The identities of the Kupaka ruler and the Pandya King mentioned in the Padmanabhapuram temple records and the ballad are not traceable. T.K. Velu Pillai says that Venad Kings are often described as belonging to the Kupaka dynasty[66]. If it is true, says K.K. Pillay.,[67] it may tentatively be accepted that in the war between the Venad rulers and the Pandyas, Vira Kerala was the victor. But, the difficulty is in identifying the Pandya king (Rajasimha), since there is no source to back up this argument. It also should be mentioned that Parantaka Pandya who ruled about this time (i.e.) AD 1120 claimed to have conquered the Kupakas. Having regard to all these arguments, the stand to be taken remains inconclusive.

Nanjil Kuravan Episode. Another controversial issue in the history of Kanniyakumari District is that of Nanjil Kuravan. Shangoonny Menon writes that during the half a century of the Muslim rule over the Pandya Kingdom, one Nanjil Kuravan, a feudatory chief under Travancore, obtained possession of Nanjilnadu and became its ruler. He adds that Nanjilkuravan and his men were driven away by the king of Travancore during the Kollam Era 290 (AD 1117).

Nagam Aiya while agreeing with the above further eloborates the episode of Nanjilkuravan.[68] His account on the episode goes further by recounting a legend narrated to him by one Sivan Pillay of Padmanabhapuram, which describes, how one Konanki Kuravan, the founder of the dynasty was an alchemist, how he established his position in Kottar, Sucindram and other places and how his successors helped away over these regions for centuries after him. With regard to the expulsion of the last member of the Kurava chief more than one view is prevalent.

Shangoonny Menon says that the last Kurava Chief was expelled by the Travancore Sovereign in 292 ME, which according to Nagam Aiya is not so. He says that it was the Mudaliar Steward of the last Kurava Chief who usurped the kuravas.

But K.K. Pillay,[69] argues that Mackenzie, while drawing conclusions has relied upon the legendary account of one Annavi of Kottar and that from all these, one cannot stop wondering about the legend mongers ingenuity.

The possibility that the story was originally floated by some member of the "Periya Veetu Mudaliyar" family, cannot be altogether ruled out. Having migrated beyond the ghats at an early date, the ancestor of the family attained an eminent position and ultimately became the leader of Nanjilnadu. A later member of the family might have tried to invent a mythical association for his ancestors with an imaginary ruler (i.e.) Nanjil Kuravan. This view is supported by an evidence in the Mudaliyar manuscripts No. 63 of 10th Ani of 1004 M.E. [70].

The myth of Nanjilkuravan developed out of the accounts given in Tamil literature on Nanjil Porunan and Nanjilvalluvan is equivocal. The fact that Porunan had his seat of power near Azhahiyapandiapuram provides evidence that Porunan may be related to Nanjilkuravan. Here it is pertinent to observe that the name of Kurattiyarai, a village near Azhahiyapandiapuram, is associated with the mythological perversion to the village referred to as Kusathiyarai. This is referred to in a palm leaf document belonging to AD 1476.

The narrations of the Nanjilkuravan episode by Shangoonny Menon as well as Nagam Aiya are anachronistic. It is stated that it was during the period when the Mohammedans ruled the Pandya Kingdom, Nanjilkuravan carved out his kingdom. But to speak of any Muslim invasion against South India, it could not be earlier than AD 1310 and hence, the assumption seems baseless. Hence, once again according to K.K.Pillay, the authenticity of the Nanjilkuravan episode is extremely doubtful.

VENAD SUPREMACY

During the first quarter of the 12th century AD, certain pockets in Kanniyakumari district was brought under the fold of Venad Kings. Vira Kerala Varma, who ruled over Venad till about 1140 AD., is said to have defeated Nanjilkuravan,[71] whether the Nanjilkuravan episode is historical or not, it cannot be denied that Venad ruled supreme over portions of Nanjilnadu in the first quarter of the 12th century AD. "The Cholapuram

inscription of Kollam Era 302 (AD 1127) which registers the assignment by the Venad king, of certain revenues arising from the devadana lands at Vadaseri to Rajendra Choleswaranudaya Mahadeva temple at Kottar[72] lends credibility to this fact.

As regards this inscription, Prof.P.Sundaram Pillai writes, "The circumstances under which Sri Vira Kerala of Venad was prompted to dedicate so piously a portion of his revenue to a temple founded by a foreign monarch are, of course, now, difficult to determine, but if I am at liberty to venture a hypothesis, I suspect the grant was meant, in all probability as a political peace offering to the representatives of the Chola Power in the land." [73] But Sundaram Pillai's 'far fetched' interpretation, according to K.K. Pillai seems to overrate the real position of the Cholas at the time.[74]

Further, an inscription of 301 M.E. (AD 1126) at Sucindram, though silent about the then ruling sovereign or his regnal year, furnishes for the first time the date in terms of the Kollam Era which leads to presume the dominance of the Venad ruler over the area. Moreover, Sucindram is described in the inscription as Vira Kerala Chathurvedhimangalam. Perhaps the author refers to the surname Vira Kerala of the 12th century.

A Vira Kerala's inscription of 319 M.E. (A.D. 1144) discovered in Tiruvallam is an added proof about the continuance of his rule. There is also an epigraph in Sucindram which speaks of a Pandya king Maravarman Srivallabha, of the same period. Discovery of certain inscriptions at Puravaseri and Kallidaikurichi reveal that they are of Maravarma Srivallabha. But, their exact dates are yet to be established. However, on Palaeographic grounds and on the basis of the pattern of the introduction adopted in his inscriptions, the king's rule may be ascribed to the 12th century AD.[75] Nagam Aiya is of the view[76] that Maravarman Srivallabha ruled over Tirunelveli as well as North Travancore, identifying these places mentioned in the inscriptions as Kil-Vempanadu as well as the Mel Vempanadu. What made him to arrive at this conclusion was, that Tirunelveli was known as Kil-Vempanadu. But K.K. Pillay 'says that Nagam Aiya's view was unsustainable, since North Travancore was not known as Mel-Vempanadu. He agrees that Tirunelveli was Kil-Vempanadu and to him Mel-Vempanadu was the place just west of Kil-Vempanadu, but not North Travancore.

Because it is seen in another South Indian inscription, that a place. Kodalur, immediately to the west of Tirunelveli is spoken of, as a part of

Melvempanadu. (Melvempanattu Kodalurana Kulasekara Chaturvedimangalam). So, Kodalur is none other than Kodakanallur, west of Tirunelveli. Accordingly, K.K. Pillay says that the available data do not warrant the conclusion, that Srivallabha had supremacy over Venad or Najilnadu.

Koda Kerala Varma (AD 1140 to 1155) : The first inscription of Koda Kerala Varma was dated back to 320 M.E. (AD 1145). Hence, the rule of Vira Kerala Varma might have terminated before 320 M.E. Another inscription of this ruler relating to the first year of his reign which was found in Sucindram indicates that his sway extended over South Nanjilnadu. He was one among the earliest patrons of the Sucindram temple and he bestowed extensive lands on the temple.

Sri Vira Ravi Varma (AD 1151-1164) : Sri Vira Ravi Varma, succeeded Koda Kerala Varma. His authority extended upto the eastern part of Nanjilnadu, as is seen from the inscription of 336 M.E. (AD 1161) which speaks of his gifts of lands in Talakudy to the Puravaseri temple.[77] It also speaks about the administration of Nanjilnadu by a triumvirate of royal officers. The village organisation speaks of the rights of the people of Talakudy, to execute and ratify the royal grants and also the local administration.

According to K.A.N. Sastri, Vira Ravi Varma was not an independent ruler of Venad, but was a feudatory of the Pandya ruler, Maravarman Sri Vallabha. The discovery of Srivallabha's inscription in Nanjilnadu probably prompted these historians to view as above. The available data regarding the supremacy of Sri Vallabha over Venad or Nanjilnadu are very slender to conclude as above, since the grants of lands referred to, do not lie in Venad, but in the Pandyan Kingdom. Moreover, the dates of these inscriptions have not been well established. But, as per Palaeographic calculations these inscriptions may be of the 12th Century AD, which all the more makes the regnal period of Sri Vallabha doubtful. Moreover, it is accepted by the historians that Srivallabha was the Pandya contemporary of Udaya Marthanda Varma, as is evidenced from the fact that he married Tirubhuvana Devi the daughter of Udaya Marthanda Varma. There are also evidences that Nanjilnadu continued to be under the domain of Venad Kings.[78]

Udaya Marthanda Varma : The next Venad ruler connected with the history of the present Kanniyakumari district area was Udaya Marthanda Varma of the 4th Century M.E. or 12th Century AD. The date of his

accession however is still a matter of dispute among the scholars. According to Nagam Aiya, his accession was in 348 Kollam Era. (AD 1173). His authority is based on Prof. P. Sundaram Pillay's account on the Tiruvattar inscriptions of Marthandavarma. But, according to K.K. Pillay, the Tiruvattar inscriptions is illegible and hence the date of his accession is doubtful. Sundaram Pillay says that the date of accession (i.e) 348 M.E. which is countered by Gopinatha Rao,[79] according to whom, it was 398 M.E. But the present view is in agreement to Sundaram Pillay's reading, since the discovery of an inscription of Aditya Varma, belonging to 368 M.E. lends support to it. The successor of Udaya Marthanda Varma is said to have actively associated with the construction of the Arthamandapa of the temple at Sucindram.

The 13th and 14th centuries witnessed the rise of notable monarchs in succession. A peculiar feature which incidentally, presents serious difficulties to historians is the system of co-partnership or the practice of junior members of the royal family being associated with the ruling sovereigns. Nagam Aiya says, "Two or more kings of the same dynasty are mentioned as ruling at one and the same time. It may be that both were independent chiefs over small tracts, or it may be that the senior associated with the junior in Governmental affairs". This makes history at this juncture distressingly complex.

At the beginning of the 14th century AD, Ravivarman Kulasekaran who ruled from Quilon had established himself as a great conqueror of the Coromandal coast. It is therefore likely that he marched to the other side of the ghat through the Aralvoimozhi pass, but whether he had any specific contact with Kanniyakumari or not is not known.

Parakrama Pandya : The hold of the Venad rulers over Nanjilnadu is certain. But, Nagam Aiya has put forth a theory that Parakrama Pandya of the Second Pandya Empire reigned from AD 1357 had captured Nanjilnadu and brought it under his rule. This hint would have been taken from the inscriptions of Parakrama Pandya at Sucindram and Cholapuram.

But, Gopinatha Rao does not approve of the contemporaneity of the inscription and the period of Parakrama Pandya (AD 1372 to 1385). He says that the inscriptions must belong to a later date (i.e.) the 15th century.

About this, K.K.Pillay says that the Cholapuram inscription of Parakrama is silent about the political supremacy of the Pandyas and moreover the epigraph is not even dated. He further states that the

benefactions to the temples of a neighbouring country by a ruler was regarded above dynastic disputes and belligerent enterprises. Therefore the mere discovery of the inscription of Parakrama, in this context the Cholapuram inscription, is not an evidence enough to conclude that Parakrama ruled supreme over this part of Tamilnadu.

Nagam Aiya[80] further says that Parakrama ruled Nanjilnadu from AD 1372 to 1385 and Vira Ravi Varma a Venad ruler recovered Nanjilnadu from the Pandya. K.K.Pillay says that neither the first conquest nor the re-conquest is definitely proved. [81] True, the Chronicle of the Padmanabhaswamy temple mentions that Ravi Varma made certain gifts to the temple in 592 M.E. (AD 1416) as an atonement for the havoc caused in the war at Karuvelankulam. But this war was probably an aggressive exploit on the part of the Venad ruler. With the enfeebled position of the Pandyas, instead of Nanjilnadu, the region of the east of Aralvoimozhi happened to be the centre of interest. But, the fact remains that for several succeeding centuries Venad kings held sway over Valliyur and Nanguneri.

In the later part of the 14th century also there were mentions about the patronage received by the temples in Nanjilnadu from the Pandyas. The inscriptions of Maravarman Vira pandya and Ari Kesari Parakrama are available in Sucindram temple. Though they relate to their respective regnal years, yet there are no positive proofs of their political supremacy over the region.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Ravi Varma Kulasekara (1299 -1313 AD) : The medieval history of Venad may be said to have commenced with the reign of Ravi Varma Kulasekara. He married the daughter of his Pandya contemporary, Maravarman Kulasekaran and ruled as a feudatory to him till 1310 A.D., in which year the Pandya king died and after that he became independent [82]

He was a great conqueror. He was called 'Sangramathira', which would mean firm in battle. He raised the position of Venad as a powerful military state, by his conquests. [83]

Ravi Varma Kulasekara was succeeded by Vira Udaya Marthanda Varma. There are differences of opinion among the historians in the identification and determination of the period of this ruler. However,

A. Sreedhara Menon, the Editor of Trivandrum District Gazetteer says that perhaps 'Udhaya Marthanda Varma ruled from 1313 to 1350 AD. His opinion is based on the records of Padmanabhaswami temple.

He was succeeded by Ravi Varma. The period between AD 1350 and 1384 was an epoch of radiant glory in the history of the Venad Royal House.

It was the period of the sway of the two illustrious brothers, Ravi Varman and Aditya Varman. It was during their rule, the southern part of their kingdom (present Kanniyakumari District) witnessed the frequent Muslim invasions. The rulers established a strong and well-equipped army in the south to combat the invasion of the Muslims. New palaces were constructed at Kottar (located in the present Nagercoil) and Amaravathi by the rulers. Ravi Varman is the author of the historic Thiruvithankodu inscription which registers a gift of land for feeding twelve Brahmins in the Thiruvithankodu temple during the Vaisakam annual festival. Ravi Varman was also a patron of arts and letters.

After Ravi Varman passed away, his brother as well as co-ruler Aditya Varman became the sole ruler of Venad in AD 1376. He himself was a scholar and poet. He also patronised arts and letters. He was figured in many Malayalam literature as a famous war hero. Even when he was Trippaur Mooppan, he earned a high reputation, as a military hero, by defeating the Muslim raiders, who frequently harassed the frontiers of Venad. It has been mentioned in an inscription at Krishnan Koil, Vadaseri, (Nagercoil) which suggests that the 'Krishnan Koil' was built by the king. This inscription enumerated the intellectual attainment of the king, as a well-versed grammarian and also proficient in science. He is also described as capable of handling 36 kinds of weapons.[84]

Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma (AD 1383 - 1444) : Shankunny Menon states that the rule of Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma from AD 1383 to 1444 (ME 558 - 619) was the largest in Travancore history. This, T.K.Velu Pillai confirms on the basis of the temple records and goes further to say that Vira Ravivarma who is spoken of during this period, was only a junior prince. The domain of Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma extended over the territories, which lie on both sides of the Ghats and there was no other ruler of Malabar who, during the said period, had much more extensive possession.[85]

This ruler himself had associated with the Sucindram temple in Kanniyakumari District, and it was he who designed the sabha Mandapa of the temple. The temple inscriptions speak to the benefaction which has earned him, the name "Keralalakshmapatindra" (The great emperor of Kerala).

Among the successors of Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma were Aditya Varma, his younger brother, Rama Varma another member of the family, who were all ruling co-partners in the later half of the 15th century. They continued certain embellishments of the Sucindram pagoda. Thus, their own inscriptions speak of [86].

During the last quarter of the 15th Century Jayasimha Deva II (who ruled about AD 1486) and his successor Sakalakala Marthandavarma (ruled about 1495 AD) figure in the history of the present Kanniyakumari district. It is said that Jayasimha Deva II, had once freed the weavers of Talakudy from the local oppression. His celebrated pillar inscription of Parasurama Perumteru in Kottar reveals that the king toured Vadasery and gave a patient hearing to the representations of the migrant residents. Their source of living was dyeing cloth, their grievance was that, they were subjected to various hardships by the people of the higher castes like Brahmins and Pillamars.[87] To put an end to this, he promulgated an ordinance by which such oppression preventing them from using water from public wells and tanks was punishable severely.

Sakalakala Marthanda Varma : Sakalakala Marthanda Varma ruled about AD 1495. He constructed a temple dedicated to Lord Ganesa at Marugur, a Village near Sucindram. His approach towards settlement of social disputes was much the same as that of his predecessors and he went a step forward and promulgated "certain Rules regulating the conduct of the 'Right and Left' hand castes towards each other" [88]

Bhoothala Sri Vira Udaya Marthanda : Inscriptional evidences are there to show that the next Venad Sovereign who played a prominent role in Kanniyakumari district was Boothala Sri Vira Udaya Marthanda. His administration of the country in AD 1495 (670ME) was notable even though he ascended the throne only in 691 ME (AD 1516). He made large conquests and advanced in the north-east as far as Tirunelveli. In commemoration of his victory, he assumed the title, Mankonda Bhoothala Vira. The inscriptions at Brahmadesam, Seramadevi, Ambasamudram and Kalakadu bear testimony to his victories. He patronised the temples

in the district. He gifted some lands in Talakudi to the Sucindram temple. It is said that it is he who was responsible for the installation of the idol of Udaya Marthanda Vinayagar at the entrance of the Sucindram temple. Jayantiswara temple at Talakudi and Krishnaswamy temple at Thovalai also received his patronage. His religious tolerance can be well understood by the fact that he made liberal gifts by way of lands to the Jain temple at Nagercoil. He helped the paravas at Kumari Muttam who were Christians by releasing them from the stronghold of the local Hindus and relieving them of the offensive taxes levied upon them.

Therefore, the image of Udayamarthanda Varma as a brilliant soldier, and a fine administrator is very well reflected in the history of Nanjilnadu.[89]

NANJILNADU AND VIJAYANAGAR

The historians generally view that the Venad ruler was subjected to accept the suzerainty of Vijayanagar. But T.K. Velu Pillai, the author of the revised State Manual of Travancore has viewed otherwise which is rather a futile[90] controversy over the issue; hence, the necessity arises to delve deep in the matter. The first Venad invasion took place in AD 1532 during the rule of Krishna Deva Raya, for the reason that the Pandya ruler who had accepted the overlordship of the Vijayanagar kingdom was harassed by his neighbour, the Venad ruler. It is therefore, natural that the Vijayanagar ruler came to the rescue of the Pandya ruler. There was also another score for the Vijayanagar ruler to settle with the Venad ruler for having harboured a Chola ruler, who broke his allegiance to Krishna Deva Raya. These two causes were enough for the Vijayanagar ruler to launch an offensive attack against Venad, which, he unfortunately, did not live to see. His successor Achutha Raya pursued the invasion and the troops reached Srirangam. He commissioned his brother-in- law Salaka Timma to lead the troops in the battle against Venad, which took place on the banks of the river Tamaraparani, in which he defeated his enemies and reinstated the Pandya ruler.

The "Achutharaya Bhyudayam", a literary work and an inscription of Achutharaya in Kanchipuram speak to the victory of the Vijayanagar in the battle and a victory pillar installed by Achutharaya in commemoration of his victory. It is also seen that the Venad ruler not only surrendered, but also came up with presents like elephants, horses and valuables to be showered on the conquerer. However, the Vijayanagar general took the

Venad ruler to Srirangam, where the Vijayanagara ruler stayed and got him punished for his commissions and omissions, against the Pandyas.[91]

This literary and epigraphic account has been contradicted by T.K. Velupillai who contends that the "Achutaraya Bhyudayam" is a panegyric work and hence, it cannot be relied upon. Regarding the epigraphical evidence, he is of the view that it is not in Travancore but in a far away place (i.e.) Kanchipuram, and hence is unreliable. K.K. Pillay is not in agreement with this view, as is seen below .

"It seems far-fetched to suggest as is done by T.K. Velupillai, that with a view to white-washing the defeat sustained by Vijayanagar, the 'Achutaraya Bhyudayam' has invented the story of Salaka Timma's pilgrimage to Trivandrum, accompanied by the Tiruvadi. Veluppillai makes capital out of the circumstances that the 'Achutarayabhyudayam' makes no mention of Padmanabhapuram, which is an important place on the way from Tamaraparani to Trivandrum. Clearly this piece of negative testimony cannot be exploited for the purpose of discrediting the entire reference to the pilgrimage as a figment of the poets imagination".

"The most important objection to T.K.V. Pillai's view is provided by epigraphic testimony. His argument based on the provenance of the inscription, is hardly convincing. The Emperor was not present at the battle of Tamaraparani, and the General could not have recorded his victory at Tirunelveli. It is true that, so late as AD 1541, a Travancore king instituted a Nandhi in the temple of Pallikkai (Tirunelveli District) and renamed the temple after himself. But, that does not, by any means, disprove the triumph of Vijayanagar".

"On the other hand, the positive data furnished by epigraphs cannot be brushed aside. The coper plate of the reign of Muthu Krishnappa corroborates the defeat of Tiruvadi. The plate records a gift of the village of Puliurkurchi in Tiruvadidesam by the son of Annan Basavanu Nayakar, who was an Officer of Rajathiraja Vithalaraja. The plate is dated Saka 1459 and Kollam 713 which correspond to the year AD 1537. How could this have occured, if the supremacy of Vijayanagar had not been recognised by the Tiruvadi? Moreover, the inscription at Elavanasur of Saka 1453 (AD 1532) includes, among the birudas of Achutha, the title of "Tiruvadi Saptangaharana" viz., he, who captured the seven emblems of Tiruvadi's royalty. In the face of the overwhelming testimony, the triumph of Vijayanagar in the conflict of AD 1532 by no means open to doubt."[92]

The Second Invasion of Vijayanagar and Virakerala Varma : Unni Kerala Varma, otherwise known as Bhuthala Vira Sri Kerala, succeeded to the Venad throne in AD 1535, due to the death of Udhayamarthanda Varma. This period witnessed the second invasion of the Vijayanagar, which was because of the repeated incursions of the Venad King into the territory of the Pandyas, who were the vassals to the Vijayanagar rulers and simultaneously to secure allegiance of the Paravas in the West Coast. The invasion was significant because of the scene of conflicts existed within the present Kanniyakumari District. The Paravas, who were being proselytized to Christianity by the Portugese, were loyal to them. Though these were the causes for invasion, the immediate cause was said to be the default of the Venad ruler to pay tribute to the Vijayanagar ruler.

The expedition was finally led by Ramaraya Vithala, the Vijayanagar Viceroy at Madurai and his brother, Chinna Timma. The invaders passed through the Aralvoimozhi pass and met the Venad forces at Kottar.

With regard to the result of this battle, there is an often repeated account that one Bishop Xavier is said to have entered into the scene of the battle holding a cross in his hands. This struck terror in the minds of the invaders. But, it must be observed that none of the sources speaks of a pitched battle and very much less of a victory for the Venad ruler. However, it is said that Bishop Xavier could have interceded on behalf of Unnikerala and succeeded in bringing out a rapproach between the Vijayanagar rulers and the Venad Kings.

But this rapproachment angle, T.K. Velu Pillay refutes because according to him, the Vijayanagar army met an ignominious defeat at the hands of the Venad ruler at Kottar for a second time in AD 1544. But, not even a slender evidence is seen in support of his view. However he seems to draw support for his writing from two of the inscriptions at Sucindram. But, even then after a deep study of these inscriptions, one finds it difficult to uphold the view of Velu Pillay. The first inscription dated 720 ME, reveals that Vithala built the Gopura of the temples for Tiruvenkatanatha and erected the Dvajasthamba in front of the Perumal shrine. The second epigraph of 722 ME., registers a gift of lands settled by Venrumankonda Bhuthala Vira Ravi Varma for offerings to Tiruvenkata Emperuman on the birth days of Vithala.

K.K. Pillay[93] further says that the author of the Travancore State Manual hastens to explain that the endowment of Travancore King was

instituted as a token of gratitude for Vithala for having constructed the Gopura. This seems more ingenious than convincing. For one thing, if Vithala and his army had been defeated and "driven away" as has been claimed, it is incongruous to hold that he came to Sucindram and undertook the stupendous task of constructing the Gopuram. Moreover, an endowment by a monarch for his triumph against a foe would reverse the natural order of expectations. But, it must be observed that the invasion was a trial of strength between the Vijayanagar rule and the Thiruvadis and to establish his overwhelming power to the Thiruvadis, and reinstate the Pandya in his territory for whose cause, he always championed. In fine, it can be said that beyond doubt, the Venad rulers were subordinate to the Vijayanagar Kings. This epigraph is corroborated by literary sources like the "Ramarajyam" and the "Yadhavabhydya Vykya", which have sung of the Vitala's victory over Venad. [94]

About the final position of the Venad rulers, K.K. Pillay writes, "in truth, it appears that the Venad King concluded a peace with Vithala through the mediation of Xavier, recognising the supremacy of Vijayanagar. The exact terms of peace are not known. There are no means of ascertaining the question whether or not, the annual payment of tribute was imposed as a condition. Perhaps, it was imposed if we are to believe the grounds put forward by the Nayaka of Madurai for their own invasion of the land". The author [95] of the Trivandrum District Gazetteer falls in line with K.K. Pillay.

The last Vijayanagar Expedition : The Vijayanagar army under Vithala attacked Travancore in AD 1558 for the third time probably for the remission in the payment of tribute by the Thiruvadi. However, this attack proved otherwise for Vithala[96] about which Fr. Perez,the Portuguese Missionary, emissary of the Travancore King to Vithala in his account, has stated that the army fought further carrying a banner given by him and the war cry was in the name of Jesus and that this instilled fear in the minds of the opponents and led to his defeat and that he had not been heard of, since then, perhaps during this battle, he must have met with his end or during the turmoil that followed. This battle, it is needless to say, was brought to an end. Thus, Travancore became independent of Vijayanagar. [97]

Nanjilnadu and Nayaks of Madurai : The 17th Century witnessed a period of trial and tribulations to the people of Nanjilnadu. It once again became the cockpit of Venad. The invasions of the Nayaks brought greater sufferings to the masses. Pillage and plunder invariably followed the attacks.

The Nayaka chiefs everywhere in the country gradually began to assume independence after AD 1542, (ie.) at the end of Achutha Raya's rule. Their allegiance to the Central Government became formal.

Viswanatha Nayaka, the founder of the Madurai Nayakdom, subjected the Pandya's in AD 1553 and reduced him to the rank of an insignificant vassal, for a small area, comprising of Tirunelveli and its suburbs. The subjugation of the Pandyas was the prelude to intrude into Nanjilnadu by the Nayak. Kanniyakumari was captured by the Nayaks in or about AD 1609, as is clear from the letter dated 20th November 1609 of Fr. A. Laerzies, which describes the Paravas of Kumari as tributaries of Madurai Nayak. [98]

Thirumalai Nayak : Madurai Nayakdom gained a fresh impetus under the leadership of Thirumalai Nayak, who spared no efforts to conquer and consolidate the territory. His contemporary in Venad was Ravi Varma (AD 1611 - 63) during whose period Padmanabhapuram became the Capital of the Venad rulers. [99]

The Nanjilnadu Invasion of Tirumalai Nayak : Thirumalai Nayak organised an invasion against Nanjilnadu in AD 1634. The cause which led to this invasion is not clearly known. K.K. Pillay says that it was an act of wanton aggression on the part of Thirumalai Nayak. The pretext of the invasion was said to be the refusal of the Venad ruler to pay tributes to the Nayaks, the heirs of Vijayanagar Empire, who were authorised to collect tributes from Travancore.

Besides semi-historical works of the period, the 'Mudaliyar Manuscripts' recovered from the heir of the 'Periyavittu Mudaliyar' of Azhakiyapandiyapuram throw a flood of light on the Thirumalai Nayak's invasion and the consequent suffering of the people.[100]

"Ramappaiyan Ammanai", a ballad, however gives an altogether different version about the Thirumalai's invasion. It records not merely a conquest of the 'Malayalam Country'. But also says that the ruler of Madurai not only conquered Malayalam Country but also made the Raja of Nanjilnadu as his vassal and assigned him the duty to guard the forts of Madurai. It also says that the king of Nanjilnadu co-operated with Thirumali Nayak in his war against the Sethupathi. About these to quote K.K. Pillay[101] "that exaggeration or adulation may take the shape of an over estimation of the tributes or the grandeur of the victory but not of the fabrication that the Raja fought as a vassal of Thirumalai Nayak against

the Sethupathi. The Nanjilnadu Raja mentioned in this Ammanai was none other than the then Venad ruler".

Iravikkutti Pillai Pattu, a ballad of South Travancore, centres around the hero Iravikkutti Pillai, a General who fought valiantly against the Madurai force at Kanniyakulam and embraced death in the battle between the Thirumalai and Venad rulers.

Following Thirumalai's invasion there had been incessant Nayak incursions into Nanjilnadu about which details are furnished in the inscriptions, and the Mudaliyar Manuscripts. The Vadasery inscription of 873 ME speaks of the frequent raids and the devastation by the Nayaks from 852 to 871 ME (AD 1677 to 1696) which made the people of Nanjilnadu, helpless. Damages to property and cultivation were immense. The people were in jeopardy and life insecure. [102]

Ravi Varman who ruled Venad between 1684 and AD 1718 did practically everything to alleviate the sufferings of the people, which the Vadasery inscription registers. The Palm leaf record of 898 ME speaks of the King's (Ravi Varma) attachment to the people, such as granting relief to the cultivators of the temple lands.

The next to come up to the throne was Unni Kerala Varma in 1788 A.D. He was very much similar to his predecessor. He was very close to his subjects. He took stern steps to expel the plunderers who beseeched the people and created a confident climate for the people to return to their soil and restore cultivation.

Invasion of Rani Mangammal : In the year AD 1697, Mangammal, the queen regent at Madurai, invaded Nanjilnadu. The cause and course of the invasion are referred to in Nelsons' 'Madurai Manual' and Taylor's Manuscript collections.

Accordingly, Ravivarman, the then ruler of Nanjilnadu, had to subdue the turbulent feudal lords, the Ettuvittil Pillamars for whose task, he sought the help of the 'Badagas'.[103] The 'Badagas' extended their help and the task was successfully accomplished. But, Ravivarman, in a sudden move, overran the 'Badagas' and put them to death. It is said that Mangammal in order to punish Ravivarman for his atrocities against the 'Badagas', directed an invasion under Dalaway Narasappaiya against Ravivarman, which proved victorious to Mangammal and peace truce was negotiated. But, the view of T.K. Velu Pillai is quite contrary.

He denies the very fact of invasion by Narasappaiya. His main argument is as follows. Taylors[104] in his accounts had mentioned many trophies which were taken away by Narasappaiya from the defeated king, which included some ordinances. They were preserved in the forts of Madurai and Tiruchirappalli. But, Nelson, in his Madura District Manual, says that he couldnot find these ordinances there, even after a through search. On the basis of Nelson's statement, T.K. Velu Pillai does not agree the victory of Narasappaiya.

But, it should be noted that Nelson visited the forts about 1868 AD., more than 150 years after Narasappaiya's expedition.

But K.K. Pillay denies the view of T.K. Velu Pillai and says that we have no authentic or detailed record as to what had happened in these forts during this long period. He also points out the inscription engraved on a stone near a well in Vadasery (Nagercoil), which bears the name of Mangammal. The well also is locally called as "Mangammal Dharma Kinaru". Hence, to him, T.K. Velu Pillai's reasons to disbelieve Narasappaiya's conquest were alleged ones and do not appear to be convincing.[105]

THE MODERN PERIOD

Bala Marthanda Varma (AD 1729 - 1758) : The Modern History of the Kanniyakumari district begins with the rule of Bala Marthanda Varma who ascended the throne in the year 1729 A.D. During the time of his accession, the political conditions were unstable due to rebellions and the incessant inroads made by the Nayak forces. This unstability of the Government gave free hand to the feudal barons such as 'Yokakkars and Ettuvittil Pillamars' to take advantage and assert their independence. But, Marthanda Varma put a check by his determined action to subdue the rebels, by seeking the assistance of the English East India Company and the Nayaks of Madura. Meanwhile, the feudal barons took up the cause of Padmanabha Thambi and Raman Thambi, the two sons of the previous king, who conspired to capture the throne of Travancore. They were captured at Nagercoil and executed.

Having consolidated his position, Marthanda Varma started his career of conquests. In a planned manner, he conquered the neighbouring principalities like Attingal and Quilon and annexed them with his kingdom.

The king of Kayankulam formed an alliance with the king of Cochin to retrieve the ruler of Quilon from Marthanda Varma, in which attempt they succeeded. But, this success was short lived, since Marthandavarma, with the help of the English, defeated the combined forces and reconquered the territory.

The Dutch being irked by the agressions of Marthanda Varma, deputed its Governor at Srilanka, Van Imhoof, to emulate against Marthanda Varma. As a result, a battle ensued in which the Dutch met with defeat.

However, the Dutch were relentless in the pursuit and attacked Travancore from the South and captured the region extending from Colachel to Kottar. This conquest posed a threat to Kalkulam, the Southern head quarters of Marthanda Varma.

But Marthanda Varma once again proved his ability by meeting the Dutch in the battle field at Colochel on August 10th 1741, which proved to be a death knell to the Dutch and also made them revert to their original position (i.e.) as traders, and allowed them to retain the territory.[105] Another feather to his cap was the conquest of Kayankulam and states of Malabar. He was a far sighted statesman and an able organiser, who consolidated his position and restructured the administrative machinery. His reign in fact, was an epoch making.

Chanda Sahib's Invasion : Just about this time, Marthanda Varma was surprised by the expedition led by Chanda Sahib, as it reached Nanjilnadu at the instance of the Nawab of Arcot (AD 1740). Marthanda Varma was thrown off balance since he had to tackle the king of Kayankulam and the Dutch.[106] So, at the behest of Marthanda Varma, the shrewd minister, Ramayyan Dalava played an active part in bringing out a settlement with Chanda sahib, which probably contained a huge sum of money.

But, by the time the understanding could be effected, Nanjilnadu almost lost everything to the invaders "through the time honoured pass of Aralvoimozhi, the rapacious host rushed in. Marching through Kottaram and ravaging the places as they entered and reached Ittankad near Sucindram. The Royal force stationed at Kalkulam, the seat of the Venad ruler, could not be diverted to keep the invaders at bay, since their services were more urgently needed in the north".

"Flushed with triumph, the invading horde marched straight on Sucindram. Having caused many havocs in Sucindram temple, the army

proceeded to Kottar.[107] Vadasery, Tirupatiswaram and Vimanaseri and looting followed in all these places. It was early in the month of Chithirai, that Marthanda Varma sent his men to negotiate a rapproachment with Chanda Sahib through payment of money and only then, the party with drew.[108]

Dedication of Travancore to Sri Padhmanabhaswamy : In the history of the temples of Travancore, the reign of Marthanada Varma was remarkable. He dedicated his kingdom to the Lord Padhmanabhaswamy and this dedication took place on 5th Thai 925 ME. (Jan 1750 AD). Since then, he and his successors ruled the kingdom on behalf of their tutelary deity. "This stroke of policy ennobled the position of Travancore in the eyes of the subjects. As the same time, he imposed a great responsibility on the Sovereign, *as the protector of the Hindu Dharma in the State.*[109]

Administrative set up in the reign of Marthanda Varma : For viable administration, the village was taken as a unit and put under the charge of an officer called Pravrithikar. His primary duties were collection of revenues and management of village irrigration system.He was also a Magistrate with jurisdiction to try petty criminal cases in the village.

A group of villages constituted an administrative division called *"Mandapathunvathukkal"*. It was headed by a *"Kariakkar"* whose functions were more or less identified that of the present day Tahsildar.

In the field of financial administration, a system of preparing budgets, *"Pathivukannakku"*. (i.e), allocation of funds for different depeartments, was formulated. Survey and settlement of land was introduced and reorganisation of the army on the model of the British Army, was taken up. The credit for the construction of many forts (eg.) the forts at Padmanabhapuram, Kanniyakumari and rebuilding of the Aralvoimozhi, goes to this king.

In the fort at Padmanabhapuram, troops were garrisoned and ammunitions stored and it was the central reserve, from where, soldiers and ammunitions were drawn.

Agriculture received great impetus during his reign. Marthandavarma executed many irrigation projects in Nanjilnadu, the important among them being the dams at Ponmani and Puthen. These dams not only served irrigation purpose but were sources for drinking water for Kalkulam, Padhmanabhapuram and other neighbouring places in Nanjilnadu. Many acres of uncultivated lands were brought under plough and the single crop

pattern was made double, which greatly improved the agricultural production and the prosperity of Nanjilnadu.

Successors of Marthanda Varma: Marthanda Varma was succeeded by the following rulers under whom the then Travancore state witnessed a steady progress. Their rule is discussed in detail, in the following paragraphs:-

1	Rama Varma Karthigai Thirunal	1758–1798
2	Bala Rama Varma	1798–1810
3	Rani Gowri Lakshmi Bai	1811–1815
4	Rani Gowri Parvathi Bai	1815–1829
5	Rama Varma Swati Thirunal	1829–1847
6	Marthanda Varma Uttaram Thirunal	1847–1860
7	Rama Varma Ayilam Thirunal	1860–1880
8	Rama Varma Visakam Thirunal	1880–1885
9	Sri Mulam Thirunal	1885–1924
10	Regent Sethu Lakshmi Bai	1924–1932
11.	Rama Varma Sri Chithirai Thirunal	1932 upto the end of the monarchy 1st Sep.1949)

The important feature of the foreign policy of these rulers was that they maintained cordial relationship with the British.

Ramavarma Karthigai Thirunal (1758 - 98 AD) : Rama Varma, the nephew of Marthanda Varma was his immediate successor. He was popularly known as Dharma Raja. The important historical event in his reign was the invasion of Tipu Sultan and his defeat. Ram Varma was ably assisted by two efficient ministers. Ayyappan Marthandan Pillai and Raja Kesava Doss, who deserve to be mentioned.

Raja Kesava Doss, the Dewan of Travancore from 1788 to 1798, was born in the village of Kunrathoor of Vilavancode taluk. By dint of his ability he rose to the position of the Dewan from a mere clerk in the palace. It was during his period, the designation of "Dalawa"was re-designated as 'Dewan'. He was the first 'Dewan' of Travancore and later honoured with the title 'Raja'. He was an efficient General and most of the achievements of the king, were attributed to the efficiency of the Dewan. He played an important role in the conclusion of the Treaty of 1795, by which, the East India Company promised to extend its full help at times of aggression against the State. He was responsible for the over-whelming improvements in the field of Agriculture, Irrigation, communication and

industries. He elevated the position of Pudhukkadai in Vilavancode taluk and Kottar in Agasthiswaram taluk, as important commercial centres.

Bala Rama Varma (1798 - 1810) : Balarama Varma succeeded Rama Varma at the age of 13. He was an inefficient ruler as could be evidenced from his age and this was taken advantage of, by one Uddiyyori Jayanthan Sankaran, a noble Namburi, who made many intrigues and became the favourite of the king and got himself appointed as Valia Sarvathikarayakkar. He was assisted by Sankaranarayana Chetty of Thakkalai and Mathu Tharakan. The entire power of the State came under the "Triumvirate of ignorance, profligacy and rapacity."[110] The State finance came down to the verge of bankruptcy. To set right financial imbalance, taxes were excessively levied and forcibly collected. Those who refused or could not pay the taxes were whiplashed in public places or imprisoned. This tyranicial rule made the subjects to agitate which ended in a rebellion against the State under the leadership of one Veluthambi.

The rise of Velu Thambi : Velu Thambi was born in AD 1765 in a respectable family in Thalaikkulam in the taluk of Kalkulam in Nanjilnadu. He became the 'Kariakkar' of his native village at a very young age. He had been ordered by the despotic Ministry of Bala Rama Varma to collect and pay a sum of Rs. 3,000/ as taxes. But Velu Thmbi resented it. Probably he would have felt that the taxes were unjust, and so he dodged payment, by asking three days time to make the payment, which was granted. Meanwhile, he aroused the people and brought about an insurgence against the despotic rule. Being an eloquent speaker, it was quite easy for him, to consolidate the mass. On the third day, Velu Thambi besieged the fort of Trivandrum with a group of armed men. The de-jure ruler Balarama Varma was alarmed at this and offered to negotiate peace settlement with Velu Thambi, who demanded the immediate dismissal and punishment of the ministry headed by Jayanthan Sankaran Namburi and the abolition of unjust taxes. The king conceding to the demands, and dismissed the ministry and banished them. As a follow up, Velu Thambi and his associates were appointed to key posts. Chenpaka Raman Pillai became the Valia Sarvathikaryakkar (Dalawa) and Velu Thambi the Mulakumatisilla Sarvathikaryakkar (Commerce Minister). [111] In AD 1801 Chenpaka Raman Pillai died and his functions were assigned to Velu Thambi by the king with approval of the then British Resident at the court of Travancore, Colonel Macaulay.

Velu Thambi though a clever and efficient administrator and an ideal patriot who stood for the cause of the poor and the downtrodden, was also unscrupulous. The measures that he undertook to tone up the administration were drastic and unscrupulous, which therefore met opposition even among his close associates, who went to the extent of demanding the dismissal and arrest of Velu Thambi. However, Velu Thambi manoeuvred and got the opposition under control by imprisoning them. The opposition against Velu Thambi echoed in the army too and as a result, there was a mutiny. The mutineers marched to the capital and demanded the dismissal of Velu Thambi. But, nothing came out of it, since Col. Macaulay, the British Resident at the court, stood by Velu Thambi, and the situation was very easily brought under control.

The British interference in the internal affairs of the state resulted in the conclusion of a treaty of friendship between them and the Venad king, Bala Rama Varma. As per a provision of the treaty, the Travancore state became a protectorate and ally of the British, paying an annual tribute of Rs. 8 lakh.[112]

Quite very soon the relationship between Velu Thambi and Colonel Macaulay became very much strained due to the interferrence of Col. Macaulay in the administration of the state. The Travancore ruler therefore appealed to the Governor of Madras Presidency to recall Col. Macaulay which naturally infuriated the Resident, and so he started pressing for the immediate payment of the arrears of tribute to the British Government. This ignited the patriotic fervour of Velu Thambi. So he took up arms against the British in order to liberate the country from foreign rule. The insurrection spread widely in the country during which, many British officers were massacred. In January 1809, Velu Thambi issued a proclamation to the public in which he requested them to join the struggle for freedom, against the British. The response was tremendous and the whole State rose against the British.[113]

A battle, therefore, caused between the Travancore Army and the British troops, but the British troops too were very formidable for the Travancore Army and hence the Travancore Army met with defeat at Quilon in 1809. The victorious British troops marched into Nanjilnadu and destroyed the forts at Padhmanabhapuram and Udhayagiri.[114]

All was now lost and Velu Thambi paid his last respects to the Maharajah and left Trivandrum, which he was not destined to see again. It is said that before his flight from the captial, Velu Thambi suggested to the Maharaja to absolve himself of all blame, by blaming the Dalawai. It is said that under the cloth of fleeing from Trivandrum, he mustered strength for yet another struggle.

The Travancore ruler appointed one Ummini Thambi in the place of Velu Thambi. A peace negotiation between the British and the Venad ruler was signed, by which the army recruited by Velu Thambi was disbanded and an arrest warrant was issued against Velu Thambi. Velu Thambi dodged arrest and at last he was arrested in his hometown, Mannodi. This disgrace he could not bear and so he requested his brother to kill him, and on his refusal to do so, Velu Thambi stabbed himself to death. His end is described by Nagam Aiya as, "discomfitted and despairing he had died in the high Roman Fashion, by his own hand".[115] Thus ended the life of a great patriot, who unfurled the flag of opposition against the East India Company. His followers also were not spared.

Later, Lord Minto, the Governor-General condemned the English interference in the affairs of Velu Thambi and observed thus:-

> "The ends of justice and purposes of public security were attained by the death of the Dewan; and prosecution of vindictive policy when the object of it ceased to exist was repugnant to the feelings of common humanity and the principle of civilized Government".[116]

The Velu Thambi episode in the Travancore Government culminated in the payment of a heavy compensation to the English towards loses sustained by them in the scuffle against Velu Thambi. An English Army was to be maintained from the Travancore Exchequer, as per the provisions of the subsidiary Alliance between the Travancore king and the British. The people of Nanjilnadu were oppressed by the Minisitry of Ummini Thambi for their active role in assisting Velu Thambi in his fight against the British.

Gouri Laxmi Bai : Gouri Laxmi Bai succeeded Bala Rama Varma and she continued the policy of friendly relation with the British. She dismissed Ummini Thambi and in his place appointed Colonel Munro, as her Dewan. Munro, found indiscipline and rampant corruption in the State administration. As a first step, he brought about the system of gradations

among the officers and prescribed corporal punishments against the erring officers. He undertook a state tour and personally assessed the performance of the officers. The system of recruitment to public services was improved. The economic status of the state was also improved by abolishing the sinecure establishments and expediting collections of long fallen arrears of taxes and simultaneously the oppressive taxes were abolished. An effective system of accounting and audit was introduced. Trade and Commerce received a fillip and regular Custom Houses called 'Chokies' were established. The temple administration was re-organised as well. The temple at Sucindram and other 347 temples in the state were brought under the management of the State. The re-organisation imposed a check of the growing power of the Yohakars, the temple trustees who exercised a sinister influence over the people and had established practically an "imperium in imperio within the State" [117] Munro's administration was therefore a welcome relief to the people.

Gouri Laxmi Bai died and was succeeded by her sister. Gowri Bharvathi Bai (AD 1815 - 1820) during whose reign also Col. Munro continued to be the Dewan. Her period witnessed the large scale conversion to Christianity by the activities of Missionaries and as a result in 1816, the London Mission was established at Nagercoil.

Rama Varma Swathi Thirunal (1829 - 1847 AD) : Rama Varma Swathi Thirunal ascended the Travancore throne in 1829. He introduced many administrative reforms like establishment of the Munsiff Courts for trying small civil and criminal cases. Codification of Law on the British model (in 1835), introduction of Western education and the creation of separate departments for spreading European Engineering, Education and for Irrigation were some of his reformative measures. Besides a good administrator, he was also an eminent scholar in Malayalam and Tamil. He was by himself a poet, who had composed many poems. He was also one of the musical maestros of South India.

Marthanda Varma Uthram Thirunal (1847 - 1860) : Marthanda Varma succeeded Rama Varma. He improved the financial condition of the State, by introducing an effective system of collection of revenue.

It was during his reign a crisis developed in Nanjilnadu. The core of the crisis was the agitation of the 'Shanar' (Christians) of Nanjilnadu for securing their womenfolk the right to wear the upper garments on bar with the women of the higher castes.[118] The agitation took a serious turn in the taluks of Vilavancode, Kalkulam, Agasthiswaram and Thovala posing a

threat to the Law and Order. Having no alternative, the king called the army to maintain Law and Order.

Later, the 'Shanars' sent petitions to the king as well as the Governor of the then Madras Presidency, requesting redressal of their grievances. Thereupon, the king issued a proclamation in 1859, by which, he abolished all restrictions in the mode of dressing of the Christian Shanar Women.'

An important achievement during his reign was the construction of a new irrigation canal between Trivandrum and Nanjilnadu. The canal was christened after the king as, 'Ananda Victorial Marthanda Canal.'[119]

Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880) : Ayilyam Thirunal succeeded Marthanda Varma Utharam Thirunal in 1860. His reign witnessed certain improvements in the field of agriculture. The theory till then in practice, had been that the Government was the sole owner (Jenmi) of all the lands in the state with the right of cultivation alone left to the ryots, with no right to them either to transfer or to alienate or inherit. Ayilyam Thirunal issued a proclamation in 1865 AD., known as the 'Pandara Pattom Proclamation'. The proclamation provides the right of ownership over the ryots of the lands they held and thereby they were entitled to either transfer or inherit the lands. In 1867, another Proclamation with regard to the rights of the tenants, was declared according to which the tenants were not liable to be ejected, so long as they paid the stipulated rent and other customary dues.

The two Proclamations mentioned above, were termed as the "Magna Carta" of the Travancore ryots.[120]

It was during his reign, separate Tamil schools were started in Nanjilnadu. The preliminary survey for the construction of Kothaiar dam was conducted during his period.

Ramavarma Visakham Thirunal : Ramavarma Visakham Thirunal (1880-1885) was a reputed scholar. He initiated some reformative measures. He condemned the old police system and reorganised it. He separated the police from the magistracy with a view to improve the administration of criminal justice. The most important measure introduced by him was the inauguration of a Revenue Survey and Settlement. He extended grant-in-aid to the elementary education. The native industries

were encouraged. He improved the irrigation system of south Travancore (i.e) the present Kanniyakumari District.

Sri Moolam Thirunal (1885 - 1924) : Sri Moolam Thirunal succeeded Ramavarma Visakam Thirunal in the year 1885. His rule witnessed many sided development in the state.

For the first time in the history of the Travancore state, attempt was made for the people's representation in the State legislation. A new Land Revenue Settlement was introduced in 1886, which was in tact, for 30 years.

Agriculture also received considerable attention. More irrigation facilities were introduced in Nanjilnadu and Edanadu. The taluks of Thovala, and Agasthiswaram witnessed scarcity of water and in order to tide over the situation, the 'Pandyan Kalvai' and the river Puthanar were widened. The Kothaiar project was completed during his reign, which greatly benefited the people of the present Kanniyakumari District area. The king paved the way for the emergence of a democratic form of Government. In 1888, he inaugurated the Legislative Council and in 1904 the Assembly was named after him which afforded opportunity for the representatives of the people to have a say on matters of public interest. The members of the Assembly were first nominated by the king and subsequently they were elected by the eligible voters who were members of the public whose tax assessment was Rs.100 per annum. Subsequently, towards the end of his reign, the limit was reduced to Rs.5 per annum.[121]

Regency of Sethu Lakshmi Bai (1924-1931) : The demise of Sri Moolam Thirunal posed a problem over the rulers since the heir apparent to the throne, Sri Chithirai Thirunal was just 12 years old. Hence Sethu Lakshmi Bai, the senior Maharani, took up as the regent. The credit of abolition of (i) the Devadasi system which was vogue in some of the temple in south Travancore (Kanniyakumari District) and (ii) putting an end to the cruel practice of animal sacrifices in the temples under the control of Devasam Department goes to this queen.[122]

Sri Chithiral Thirunal (1932) : Sri Chithirai Thirunal ascended the throne in 1931 and thereby the regency of Sethu Lakshmi Bai came to an end. The period since 1931 was a period which witnessed many sided progress. In 1932, the king passed the Legislative Reforms Act which extended the franchise widely. He reconstituted the Legislature and it

comprised of two chambers (i.e) The Sri Moolam Assembly the Lower House and the Sri Chithirai State Council the Upper House. The Sri Moolam Assembly, was constituted with 72 members while the Sri Chithirai state Council, constituted with 37 members. In the Sri Moolam Assembly, the four Taluks of Kanniyakumari district were represented by one member each. In 1936, the Temple Entry Proclamation was issued by the king at the instance of Dewan C.P.Ramaswamy Aiyar by which all temples in the present Kanniyakumari District along with other temples in the State were thrown open to all the Hindus including the Adi Dravidas. It was a reform of far reaching importance to the people of the state and was the first of its kind in India.[123] In 1938, the trunk road connecting Trivandram and Kanniyakumari was reconstructed and paved with concrete.

Struggle for a Responsible Government in Kanniyakumari District

Till 1956, the Kanniyakumari District was a part of the erstwhile Travancore State. The political activities of the poeple of the State were mainly influenced and guided by the 'State People's Conference' convened at the initiative of the Indian National Congress. In 1919, a Committee was organised in the State to popularise the idea of Civil Disobedience and the boycott of the British goods. In 1929, a meeting of the 'State People's Conference' was held at Trivandrum, presided over by Sri M.Visveswaraiya, a veteran administrator of the Mysore State. This conference demanded the establishment of responsible Government in the State.[123A] In 1930, when Mahathma Gandhi undertook Salt Sathyagraha, the leading patriots of this district such as Dr.M.E.Naidu, Sri Therur Subramaniya Pillai, A.C.Sundaram Pillai and Sri M.Siva Thanu Pillai took active part in the movement.[124]

The Travancore State Legislature passed the Legislative Reforms Act of 1932 as per which the right to vote was the prerogative of few land owners. This enabled the Nayar Community, who owned most of the lands in the State, to dominate the legislature. As a result the minority Communities, (viz.) the Ezhavars, the Muslims and certain section of Christians, who did not own much property, became politically less powerful and this led to resentment among the minority to agitate against the Act. They formed a party known as Joint Political Congress or Samyuktha Party and pressed their demands by launching agitations. The Government finally acceded to the demands, and modified the Act, so that

the minority communities came to be adequately represented in the legislature.[125]

The Travancore State Congress, which later emerged as a powerful political weapon, was an off-shoot of the Joint Political Congress.

In 1938, a conference of the Indian National Congress was convened in Travancore under the presidentship of Dr.Pattabi Seetharamaiya and it moved resolutions in support of the formation of the Unified Kerala State, by merging the petty principalities of Travancore, Cochin and the Malabar. The Travancore State Congress of which Pattom Thanu Pillai was a front line leader began to develop its activities during the Second World War and it was actively supported by the Joint Political Congress.

The formation of the State Congress, in 1938 set in motion a series of agitations in the State, demanding a responsible Government. The primary object, as declared in its first meeting of the Congress, was the attainment of a responsible Government in the state by all legitimate and peaceful means with universal adult franchise and adequate safeguards for protection of the interests of the minorities.[126] But the views of the State Government, under the Dewanship of Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar was different and much opposed to popular sentiment. The oppressive measures employed by the Government against the people led to the further intensification of the agitation and worsened the situation. The state congress went a step further and demanded the dismissal of Sir.C.P.Ramaswamy Aiyar. But the State Government was stern and banned all meetings of the State Congress, which culminated in the 'Civil Disobedience Movement' in the State. Demonstrations were continued disobeying the ban imposed. Meanwhile Sir.C.P.Ramaswamy Aiyar offered to negotiate with the leaders of the State Congress, on condition that they should withdraw their memorandum demanding his dismissal. The leaders were not for such a condition for negotiations. However on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi they withdrew, but yet, the attitude of the State Government remained unchanged, the repression continued more vigorously. The net result was a split in the State Congress, and the formation of a new party called the 'Youth League' founded at Trivandrum by a band of enthusiastic and public spirited young men. It was the precursor of the present Kerala Communist party.[127] In fine the merger of the congress party weakened since 1939.

In 1942, the Indian National Congress started the "Quit India Movement" demanding the English to get out of India immediately, which

echoed in Travancore State and particularly in Kanniyakumari district where there was unrest, and as a result the leaders were arrested and jailed.[128] The leaders who participated in the "Quit India Movement" and courted arrest were Dr.M.E.Naidu, Siva Muthu Karuppapillai, Sivan Pillai, P.S.Moni and others.[129]

Aikya Kerala Agitation and its effects on the Travancore Tamilians : The period between 1945 and 1956 bears much significance as far as the modern history of Kanniyakumari district is concerned.

The Travancore State Congress, on 18th of November 1945, passed a resolution in favour of the formation of a United Kerala State by merging the states of Travancore, Cochin and the Malabar. The Tamilians,who were predominant in the southern taluks of Travancore resented the Resolution. So, the Tamil language, which was recognised as one of the State official languages of the Travancore was derecognised and Malayalam remained as the only official language in the State. This was felt as an insult to Tamils, and they came to lose their hold in social, economic and political spheres and became a discontented lot.

However, the political aspirations of the Tamilians, who numbered about 15 Lakhs in a predominantly Malayalam region did not weaken.

A conference of the Tamilians was convened on the 16th of December 1945 at Nagercoil in which prominent Tamil leaders like Sam Natheniel, Velayutham Pillai, K. Nagalingam, Gandhiraman, S.N. Doss, R.K. Ram, Muthaiya, V. Markandan and P.S. Moni participated.[130] A resolution to form a political party to fight for the cause of the Tamilians was passed and as a result the All Travancore Tamil Congress emerged on the 30th of June 1946.

It is said the P.S. Moni was the nerve centre or the activities of the Travancore Tamilnadu Congress from its inception in 1945. Very soon the organisation became a mass movement with the entry of A. Nesamony, a native of Palliyadi whose role in expanding its activities beyond the Agasthiswaram and Thovalai Taluks into Kalkulam, Vilavankodu and Neyyattinkarai was noteworthy.[131] A. Nesamony was called as 'Marshall Nesamony' for he had led the movement for the merger of the present Kanniyakumari District with Tamil Nadu successfully.

Thiru Sam Nathenial was elected president of the party. A delegation of the party met leaders like K.Kamaraj and appraised them of the

situation prevalent in Travancore State and the hardship faced by the Tamil speaking people.

In the meantime in 1946, Britain announced its intention of granting independence to India. As per Clause VII of the Independence Act of India, the paramountcy of the British Crown will cease to exist when India attains Independence. This led Sir. C.P. Ramasamy Aiyar, the Dewan, to declare that Travancore state would remain independent, which declaration caused unrest within the State. There was an attempt on the life of the Dewan. This led to the Maharajah Chithirai Thirunal for the accession of Travancore state to the Indian Union. A standstill agreement was signed and this resulted in Sir. C.P. Ramasamy Aiyar relinquishing his office on the 19th of August 1947.[132]

A mammoth public meeting of the All Travancore Tamil Congress was held on the 9th of August 1947 in the Allen Memorial Hall at Nagercoil. The meeting presided over by A. Nesamoni, resulted that the All Travancore Tamil Congress would be the only political organisation through which the Tamil population could fight for its rights and privileges.

MOVEMENT FOR THE MERGER

The All Travancore Tamil Congress, in1947 held a conference in Iraviputtur in which leaders like C. Umai Thanu, S. Thavasi, Chidhambaranathan, C. Madhavan Pillai, T.T. Daniel, T. Nagalingam, Umai Thanu Pillai and others participated. In this conference the name of the party was rechristened as "Travancore Tamilnad Congress" and the leaders pledged themselves to safeguard the interest of the Tamil minority in the state and to achieve the goal of the merger of the Tamil speaking taluks of the State with the then Madras State. This attitude of the Tamil leaders was the off shoot of the Travancore State neglecting the interest of the Tamil people, and it was followed by the agitation for the Aikya Kerala (United Kerala) which sowed the seeds of suspicion among the Tamils that their interests would be jeopardised in the proposed United Kerala State. The Travancore Tamilnadu Congress continued its agitation for the merger of the Tamil speaking area of the Tavancore with the then Madras State. There were a number of Tamil scholars and writers whose contributions lighted the flames in the minds of the poeple on the importance of merger of Tamil speaking area with the then Madras State. Prof. P. Sundaram pillai (1855-1897) wrote "Manonmaniam", a drama in verse. Thiru K.N. Sivaraja Pillai who wrote the "Chronology of the Early

Tamils" was a thinker of repute, whose researches are even today held in high esteem. Shaiku Thambi Pavalar (1874-1950) a poet who is known for his concentration on many things at one time (Sadhava-thani), brought out a magazine "Muslim Mithran'. It is to be noted that during the momentous demonstration against Rowlat Act in 1919, he was very much suspected by the British Government and his activities in Madras, in colaboration with S. Subramania Aiyar, the Editor of 'Swadesa Mithran" a Tamil daily were closely watched. Thiru Kavimani Desika Vinayakan Pillai, a literary genius and noted poet who hailed from Kanniyakumari district roused the patriotism of the people by his pen. Jeevanandham, popularly known as "Jeeva" was a veterean political leader of the district. He is also a writer and orator. His writings lit the spark of nationalism in the minds of the people.[133] He was jailed for writing a book on Bhavath Singh, the lion of Punjab who was hanged by the British Government for his active part in the freedom struggle.

On the eve of the 1948 General Elections, the Travancore State Government adopted a policy of repression of the Tamils. There was also an attempt on the life of the Sri Sam Natheniel, the President of the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress. The police opened fire on an election campaign organised by the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress at Monkoda and as a result, two persons lost their lives. Thiru M.P.Sivagnanam, the leader of the Tamilarasu Kazhagam took a leading part in the 1948 General Elections. He campaigned and espoused the cause of the merger of Tamil speaking area with the then Madras State. The result of the elections improved the strength of the cause for which the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress fought. It emerged victorious in all the fourteen constituencies of the then South Travancore and it helped the party to gain recognition and to paly a key role in the making and unmaking of the Travancore Ministry.[134] The popularity of the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress Committee led to the All India Congress Committee to recognise the party.

On the 24th of March 1948, a popular ministry with Pattom Thanu Pillai as the Chief Minister was sworn in.[135] After sometime T.K.Narayana Pillai took over as Chief Minister and credit goes to him for the union of Travancore and Cochin States. But the Tamils of Southern Taluks were not for it, since by the merger of the two States, they feared that their representation in the legislature became insignificant, and hence, they pressed their demands for the merger of the area with the then Madras State.

Meanwhile, Sardhar Vallabhai Patel, the then Deputy Prime Minister of the Indian Union assured the Tamils of Travancore, that their demand for the merger with Madras State, would be considered while the scheme for the reorganisation of the states on the linguistic basis was taken up. On this assurance, the proposed agitations in Kanniyakumari district were suspended.

In 1948, once again attempts were made to integrate the states of Travancore and Cochin on the plea that the people of both the States were of the same stock, speaking the same language and bound together by a common culture and tradition. The Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress also for same reasons stood their stand for merger with the then Madras State. On 13th of April 1949, the party launched a demonstration against the union of the two states Travancore and Cochin. But inspite of severe opposition the union of Travancore and Cochin States was effected on the Ist of June 1949.

In the 1951 General Elections, the State Congress could gain only 44 seats out of 108 and so a coalition had to be effected with the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress party which had eight seats in the Legislature. The Coalition Ministry was headed by A.J.John. A. Chidambaranathan represented the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress in the Cabinet. But by about early 1952, the Travancore Tamil Nadu congress withdrew its support to the State congress due to a rift between the two which led to the resignation of A.Chidambaranathan from the Ministry. There were also dissentions within the State Congress which led to the withdrawal of the support to it by the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress and subsequently the Ministry fell.[136]

Thereupon fresh elections were held in 1954 in which the State Congress could secure only 45 seats out of the 117 seats. The Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress won all the 12 seats in the Tamil speaking area, improving its strength in the new Assembly. But it did not extend its support to the State Congress. The Praja Socialist Party which acclaimed majority formed the ministry headed by Sri Pattom Thanu Pillai on the 17th of March 1954.[137]

In the course of time the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress became divided into two one under the leadership of A. Nesamoni and the other under Thiru P.Thanulinga Nadar. However this difference of opinion was short lived and once again on 29th March 1954 the parties were united

P.Ramasamy Pillai became the undisputed leader of the party. He made the party more popular among the people. Their desire for the merger with Tamil Nadu gained a fresh momentum. They staged agitations and demonstration. By 1954, inspite of the repressions the party faced, the merger movement gained momentum through out the district. Harthals, public meetings and processions became the way of life and this movement when it reached its zenith. The repressions became at the more stronger and it went to the extent of police opening fire in Thoduvetti, Pudhukkadai Marthandam, and Sucindram, resulting in the loss of many precious lives. The situation in Kanniyakumari district became more turbulent and the popular leaders N.A.Noor Mohamed, P.Thulasingam, M.William and T.T.Daniel, who were all members of Legislative Assembly were arrested, and lodged in the Thuckalay Sub-Jail. A.Nesamoni who escaped arrest, moved bail for those arrested, but it was rejected by the High Court. Therefore Nesamoni moved the supreme Court, which transferred the bail applications to the Mysore High Court. The Mysore High Court, released the leader T.S.Ramasamy Pillai, a Legislative Member of the ruling Praja Socialist Party. He resigned his membership of the party to demonstrate his sympathy to the Tamil people and moved no-confidence motion in the Assembly against the ministry. The motion was successful and the ministry fell. The Travancore State Congress then in alliance with the Travancore Tamil Nadu congress formed a ministry headed by Pahampally Govinda Menon, but this ministry too did not last long and hence President's Rule was promulgated in Travancore-Cochin State in 1956.

A. Nesamoni had been the President of the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress since 1955. It was during his tenure, the plea for the re-organisation of States on linguistic basis was to be considered by the Government of India. A State Reorganisation Commission was constituted in 1956 to examine "objectively and dispassionately", the question of re-organisation of the States of India. The Commission invited representations, suggestions, ideas and views from the public on the re-organisation of the States. The Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress presented a memorandum before the Commission for the transfer of the Tamil speaking taluks of Thovala, Agasthiswaram, Kalkulam, Vilavancode Shenkottah, Neyyattinkara, Devikulam, Peermedu and Sirrur ir Travancore-Cochin State to the then Madras State. Two important factor: put forward in the memorandum were the geographical and linguisti affinities of this region with that of Tamil Nadu. The Commission decide to transfer to the Madras State the five Southern taluks of Travancore viz Thovalai, Agasthiswaram, Kalkulam, Vilavancode and Shencottah. Th

remaining four taluks, which the Travancore Tamil Nadu congress wanted to be merged with Tamil Nadu, were allowed to remain with Travancore-Cochin State. The claims of the Tamils over the taluks of Peermedu and Devikulam were ignored by the Commission as these taluks were of great economic importance to the Travancore-Cochin State.

The Indian Parliament, based on the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission, passed the States Reorganisation Act in March 1956. The four taluks of Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode were grouped together to form the new district, "Kanniyakumari District" and the Senkottai taluk was merged with the then Thirunelveli District. On the Ist of November 1956, Kanniyakumari District of Tamil Nadu emerged with Nagercoil as its head quarters. The formation of this district fulfilled the long cherished aspirations of the people of the locality. In the first General Elections after the creation of the district, A.Nesamoni, A.Chidambaranatha Nadar, T.T.Daniel, M.William, Tmt.Simon and T.S.Ramasamy Pillai were elected as members of the Legislative Assembly. Thiru P.Thanulingam was elected as a member of Parliament. Tmt. Simon was appointed as a Minister of the Madras State.

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16. Purananuru Stanza-120
17. (a) Pillay.K.K. op cit., p.16
    (b) However K.N.Sivaraja Pillai viewed differently that Atiyan the successor of Titiyan had lost the territory to Pasumpon Pandyan, son of Bhutha Pandiyan and probably the Pandya ruler after his conquest must have founded this town, in memory of his father, Bhuthapandyan, (Sivaraja Pillai K.N.,op-cit., p. 122)
18. Sivaraja Pillai.K.N.op.cit., Synchronistic Table
19. Ibid – Foot Note to the Synchronistic Table
20. நசை பிழைப்பறியா கழறொடி யதிகன்

    கோளற அறியாப் பயங்கெழு பலவின்

    வேங்கை சேர்ந்த வெற்பகம் பொலிய

    வில்கெழு தானைப் பசும்பூட் பாண்டியன்

    களிறணி வெல்கொடி கடுப்பக் காண்வர
21. Pillay.K.K.op.cit., pp.16 - 17
22. Neelakanda Sastri K.A.op., cit. p.126
23. Pillay.K.K.op cit., p.17

24. Ibid., p.18
25. Sesha Iyer.K.G., *Chera kings of the sangam Period* (1937), London.p.121
26 (a) Pillay.K.K. op.cit., p.19
   (b) Sivaraja Pillai K.N. op.cit., p 122- Foot Note.
27. Galdwell Bishop. *History of Tinnevelly* (Asian Educational Service Reprint-1982), p.3.
28. Inscriptions of Parantaka Pandya, Travancore Archeological Series., Vol.I.,No.3
29. Purananuru Stanza-9
30. "தென்னவர் தம்குல தெய்வம் தென்குமரி"
   (மதுரைக் காஞ்சி - வரி.190)
31 Neelakanda Sastri .K.A. *The Pandya Kingdom* (1929), 1972 Reprint -Madras p.23.
32. Neelakanda Sastri K.A., *A History of South India* (1959), IV Edition 1976. P.172-But the Same author in his earlier work 'The Pandya Kingdom (op.cit), presents the following Chronology. However we accept his latter view.

The Chronology of the Early Pandyas as found in K.A.N. Sastri's Early work (ie.) 'The Pandya Kingdom'.

		AD
1.	Kadungon	500 – 620
2.	Maravarman Avani Soolamani	620 – 645
3.	Sendan	645 – 670
4.	Arikesari Maravarman	670 – 710
5.	Kochchadayan	710 – 740
6.	Maravarman-Rajasimhan-I	740 – 765
7.	Jatila Parantaka Nedumchezhiyan	765 – 815
8.	Sri Mara Sri Sivallabhan	815 – 862
9.	Varaguna Varman	862 – 880
10.	Parantaka Viranarayanan	880 – 900
11.	Maravarman Raja Simhan-II	900 – 920

33. Neelakanda Sastri.K.A., *The Pandya kingdom.*, op. cit. p.47.
34. Pillay.K.K. op cit., p.21-Foot Note
35. Ibid.p.21
36. Ibid.p.22
37. Neelakanda Sastri., op.cit.,p.50, Foot Note-3

38. Pillay.K.K.,op.cit., p.22.

39. Neelakanda Sastri., op.cit., p.54

40. Even today Aralvoimozhi is spoken as Kottaikkarai, Pillay.K.K.,op.cit., P.23 Foot Note.

41. Pillay.K.K.,op.cit., pp.23-24

42. Ibid. p.24

43. It was this Ayivel ruler who was subdued by the Pandya, Jatila Parantaka in Ariviyurkottai and other places.

44. Kunjam Pillai, *Sila Kerala-Charithra Prasarangal,* Part I, pp.112-13

45 Sreedhara Menon.A.Editor, *Kerala District Gazetteers-Trivandram District* (1962) Trivandram p.108

46. Ibid. p.107

47. Neelakanda Sastri K.A., *The Cholas* (1935) Madras, pp.202-203

48. Pillay.K.K., op cit., p.26

49. Neelakanda Sastri.K.A., op. cit., pp.196-197

50. Ibid. pp.202-203

51. Ibid.pp.608-618

52. Ibid.p.244

53. Pillay K.K., op cit., p.26

54. Kulothunga *alias* Rajendra II was the grandson of Rajendra-I through his daughter Ammanga Devi, married to an Eastern Chalukya Prince.

55. Pillay.K.K., op.cit., p.28

56. Ibid.p.28

57. Neelakanda Sastri K.A., *The Pandya Kingdom,* op.cit., p.67

58. (a) Ibid. p.110

    (b) Neelakanda Sastri K.A., *The Cholas.*, op.cit., p.529

59. Ibid.p.111

60. Pillay. K.K., op.cit., p.29

61. Ibid.29

62. Nagam Aiya.V., op.cit., p.251

63. "எத்திசையும் புகழ்படைத்த கொல்லம் இருநூ ற்றி
தொண்ணூ ற் றிரண்டாமாண்டு

வெற்றி செய்யும் குடும்பத்தில் வியாழநின்ற விளங்கு
திங்களாவணிபன்னொன்றாந்தேதி

தண்ணி விழும்பறளை யாற்றனை யுந்தளிளித்
தமிழ் பாண்டிராஜசிங்கன்றனையும்

சென்று கொத்தலரும் பூஞ்சோலை நாஞ்சினாடும்
கோட்டாறும் கூசையர் கோன் கொண்டவாறே"

64. Nagam Aiya.V., op.cit., Vol.II.p.377

65. Pillay.K.K., op.cit., p.30

66. Velu Pillai. T.K. *Travancore State Manual* Vol II (1946), Thiruvananthapuram, p.294

67. Pillay. K.K., op.cit., p.30

68. Nagam Aiya .V., op.cit., Vol.I.,pp. 262-263

69. Pillay.K.K., op.cit., p.31

70. Ibid. p.32-33

71. Sreedhara Menon.A., op.cit., p.132

72. Sundaram Pillay.P. *Some Early Sovereigns of Travancore* (1894), Madras. pp.11-12.

73. Ibid.p.13

74. Pillay K.K., op.cit., p.23

75. Ibid. p.33

76. K.A. Neelakanda Sastri holds the view that Vira Ravivarma, the Venad king was a feudatory of the Pandya Ruler, Srivallabha. (Neelakanda Sastri, *K.A. The Pandya Kingdom* - op.cit., p.111)

77. Sundaram Pillay. P., op.cit., p.21

78. Sreedhara Menon.A., op.cit. p.134

79. Pillay.K.K., op.cit.,p.35

80. Nagam Aiya.V., op.cit.,p.265

81. Pillay, K.K., op. cit., p37

82. Sreedhara Menon.A., op.cit., p.141

83. Ibid.p.145

84. Ibid.pp.148-157

85. Velu Pillai.T.K.op.cit., p.127

86. Pillay.K.K., op.cit., pp.37-38

87. Ibid.p.38

88. Ibid.

89. Ibid.p.39

90. Ibid.

91. Ibid.p.40

92. Ibid

93. Ibid.p.43

94. Aiyangar.S.K.D., *Sources of Vijayanagar History*.p.43

95. Sreedhara Menon.A.op.cit., p.160

96. Fr.Heras, *Aravidu Dynasty.*, Vol.I.,p.162

97. Pillay.K.K.op.cit.,p.44

98. Fr.Heras. op.cit.p.162

99. Nagam Aiya .V. op.cit., p. 302

100. T.K.Velupillay is not inclined to attach much value to these documents, which, he rather insinuatingly says, were discovered only in a private house. But according to K.K. Pillay this source connot be discredited and he goes on to say that the Periyavittu Mudaliyars occupied a pre-eminant position in Nanjil Nadu as a credited leaders of the twelve 'Pidagais'. The incidents narrated in the manuscripts are corroborated by lithic inscriptions. Among the "Mudaliyar Manuscripts" is a copy of an edict dated 22nd Kumbham issued by the then king of Venad, remitting taxes on the lands which had to be left uncultivated on account of the Nayak depredation. This document enables us to determine the date of Thirumalai's invasion which must be 22nd Kumbham (i.e.). prior to Makaram 810.M.E. or to be more specific January AD. 1635.

T.K.Velu Pillay has taken much pains to establish that the Travancore king was not defeated by Thirumalai Nayak, but in the absence of positive proof, his contention fails.(quoted by Pillay. K.K. '*The Sucindram Temple*-1953, Madras. p.45-46).

101. Pillay.K.K.,op.cit,p.46

102. Ibid.p.47

103. The Badagas were certain tribal people lived in Nanjil Nadu.

104. Taylors Manuscript collections, .quoted by K.K.Pillay., op.cit., p.48

105. Pillay.K.K. op.cit., p 48-49

105. Sreethara Menon, A., op.cit., p.127

106. Bishop Caldwell.op.cit.p.138

107. Chanda Saheb and his men entered the temple and gave went to the iconoclastic fury. The head of the image of Chandeswara was broken and all the figures of lamp bearers in the inner prakara were damaged. (Pillay.K.K. op.cit., p.52.)

108. Pillay.K.K.,op.cit., pp.51-52

109. Ibid.

110. Sreedhara Menon.A.op.cit., p.210

111. Ibid.p.212

112. Ibid.pp.211-13

113. Ibid.p.215

114. Ibid.p.216

115. Nagam Aiya.V.op.cit.,p.445

116. Quoted by Nagam Aiya.V., in *Travancore State Manual* op.cit., p.445 and Sreedhara Menon.A., op.cit.,p.217.

117. Pillay.K.K., op.cit., p.53

118. Nagam Aiya.V., op.cit., p.525

119. Sreedhara Menon.,A.,op.cit.p.223

120. Magna Carta (Fig).Any document-establishing rights. 'Magna Carta' was the Great Charter obtained from King John of England in the year 1215 by the British people. This is the basis of English political and personal liberty.

121. Sreedhara Menon.A.op.cit., p.227
122. Ibid.p.230
123. Ibid.p.231
123(A) Ramachandran, P. *A.C. Sundaram Pillai-Life and work,* Nagercoil, (1988)-p.3
124. Sreedhara Menon, A., op.cit. p. 223, 224
125. Ibid.p.234
126. Daniel.D.Dr. *Struggle for Responsible Government in Travancore* (1985), Madurai p.40-41
127. Ibid.pp.63-112
128. Sreedhara Menon, A.,op.cit.,p.241
129 Manickavasakam. M.E.*P.S.Moni-An Historical-Biography* p.13
130. Daniel, D.Dr. op.cit., pp.171-172
131 Manickavasakam, M.E.op.cit.,p.16
132. Sreedhara Menon. A., op.cit., p.244
133 Padhmanabhan. S. *Contribution of Kanniyakumari to the Tamil World*-p.25
134. Sreethara Menon.A., op.cit., p.245
135. Ibid.p.244
136. Ibid.p.245
137. Ibid.p.245

CHAPTER - 3

PEOPLE

The historical trend of a district and the natural and artificial forces shaping it could be understood in proper perspective only if we know the people living there well. The people are the human resources of the district. Their culture, religion, aptitude, habits, beliefs, talents etc., have a bearing on how the district presents itself to others. The schemes of Government have to be tailored to suit the special characteristics and aspirations of the people, in order to elicit their wholehearted cooperation and a positive interaction.

The old manuals and district gazetteers show how seriously the British administrators tried to understand the people of this country. Under their influence, the native States also took strenuous efforts to study the population and life style of the people.

A number of sociological and anthropological studies have been conducted of late; and, with the introduction of the concept of 'welfare State', the 'People' are given utmost importance in special studies conducted by Government, political parties and academic institutions. Though there is a vast area awaiting exploration, studies about 'people' are taken up right earnestly by students of Sociology and many other disciplines with a view to securing a deep insight about the problems of the people and possible solutions.

Among the studies, the most systematic, authentic expensive and well-organised is the decennial censuses conducted by Government. With modern methods of collecting data, tabulation and analysis, the census reports are extremely useful and informative. The students of various Universities and local scholars also make very useful contribution. A thorough study of linguistic peculiarities and folklores in Kanniyakumari district was also organised especially for the District Gazetteer.

The most interesting and puzzling aspect of any district can be only the people living there. It is wellnigh impossible to conclude and say final

word about the people as they represent a living force, with their own moods and aims, and changing always either voluntarily or under pressure. Any account on the people of a given area is, therefore, bound to be incomplete with considerable scope for further explorations ; that is how this chapter also has been shaped. This is only a single entry in an account which is never going to be closed.

Population : The first organized Census in former Travancore State took place in 1816 by the advice and under the direction of Colonel Munro'. According to this enumeration, the State had a population of 9,06,587. The population as per the next Census taken in 1836, was 12,80,668. In 1854, the third Census returned a population of 12,62,647 in the State. Nagam Aiya, however, dismisses these three Censuses as unreliable for purposes of statistical discussions and observes, 'such a violent arrest to the law of increase in a period not marked by any extraordinary adverse seasons or exceptional visitations of droughts or epidemics is totally inexplicable except on the ground of its gross inaccuracy.'[1]

The next census in the State was conducted in 1875. This was followed by another Census in 1881. Afterwards decennial Censuses have been conducted. The increase in the population of the State from 1875 to 1901 may be seen from the following figures :–[2]

Year	*Population*	*Difference*	*Percentages of Increase*
1875	23,11,379	—	—
1881	24,01,158	+ 89,779	3.9% for 6 Years
1891	25,57,736	+ 1,56,578	6.5% for 10 Years.
1901	29,52,157	+ 3,94,421	15.4% for 10 Years

The state's population in 1901 has been given by Nagam Aiya as 29,52,157. Of this, the population of Kanniyakumari district alone was 3,59,248 (12.2 per cent). The details of population of decadal variations in the district from 1901 -1981 may be seen in Table – 3:1.

From 9,96,915 in 1961, the population has moved up to 12,22,549 in 1971; and to 14, 23,399 in 1981. The increase of population registered in 1961 -71 was 22.63 per cent. In 1971-81, the percentage of increase has come down to 16.43.

TABLE – 3:1

Details of population and decadal variations in Kanniyakumari district (1901-1981)

Year	RURAL POPULATION			URBAN POPULATION			TOTAL		
	Persons	Decade variation	%Variation	Persons	Decade variation	%Variation	Persons	Decade variation	%Variation
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1901	333,466	-	-	25,782	-	-	359,248	-	-
1911	392,377	58,911	17.67	29,883	4,101	15.91	422,260	63,102	17.54
1921	416,482	24,105	6.14	77,643	47,760	159.82	494,125	71,865	17.02
1931	481,526	65,044	15.62	100,325	22,682	29.21	581,851	87,726	17.75
1941	554,975	73,449	15.25	122,000	21,675	21.60	676.975	95,124	16.35
1951	610,263	55,288	9.96	216,117	94,117	77,15	826,380	149,405	22.07
1961	846,836	236,573	38.77	150,079	66,038	30.56	996,915	170,535	20.64
1971	1,018,144	171,308	20.23	2,04,405	54,326	36.20	1,222,549	225,634	22.63
1981	1,177,867	159,723	15.69	245,532	41,127	20.12	1,423,399	200,850	16.43

Part IIA – 1981 – General population tables statement 4 & 9 of Table A1

Distribution of Population : Among the four taluks in the district, Kalkulam has the largest population of 4,76,633, followed by Vilavankodu (4,58,590) and Agasthiswaram (4,00,000). The Thovalai taluk has a meagre population of 88,176.

The details of distribution of population in these taluks may be seen in Table – 3:2.

TABLE – 3:2

Statement of Distribution of population among the taluks of Kanniyakumari District (1981)

Sl. No. (1)	Name of Taluk (2)	POPULATION								
		Rural			Urban			Total		
		Male (3)	Female (4)	Total (5)	Male (6)	Female (7)	Total (8)	Male (9)	Female (10)	Total (11)
1	Vilavankod	222,400	217,763	440,163	9,192	9,235	18,427	231,592	226,998	458,590
2	Kalkulam	220.701	214.562	435,263	20,941	20,429	41,370	241,642	234,991	476,633
3	Thovala	44,258	43,918	88,176	–	–	–	44,258	43,918	88,176
4	Agastis-waram	106,547	107,718	214,265	92,919	92,816	185,735	199,466	200,534	400,000
	Total	593,906	583,961	1,177,867	123,052	122,480	245,532	716,958	706,441	1,423,399

Census of India, 1981, Kanniyakumari District, District Census Hand Book.

Sex ratio : The district has a female population of 7,06,441 (49.63 per cent) as against the male population of 7,16,958 (50.37 per cent). The male domination in numbers is common to both rural and urban areas. In rural areas, the strength of male population is 5,93,906 (50.42 per cent) while in urban areas it is 123,052 (50.12 per cent).

The numerical strength of female population in Kanniyakumari district is, however, more than State average. In Tamil Nadu male population is 50.67 per cent. In Kanniyakumari district it is slightly less, i.e. 50.37 per cent. At state level, we have only 977 females for every thousand males. In Kanniyakumari district, there are 985 females per thousand of males.

Migration : Nagam Aiya points out that only 0.8 per cent of the population (24,490) was enumerated as emigrants (in 1901) and adds, 'This small percentage points clearly to the Stay-at-homeness of the Travancorean. It is interesting to note that even of this small number, 15,442 or more than 63 percent have not gone beyond Cochin, while 83 persons have been enumerated outside Madras (74 in Mysore, 8 in Ooty and 1 in Baroda)'. Immigration was, however, more. There were, in 1901, 54,903 persons from outside the Travancore State. Of this, 724 were from outside India.

The subject 'migration' in the district has been studied in a more detailed manner during the Census 1961. It was found that 34,813 persons who were born elsewhere, were enumerated in Kanniyakumari district. Of this 14,476 persons were from other districts. 19,832 persons were from other states, and 522 persons were form other countries. Among the foreigners, 449 persons had come from Asian countries. 56 persons were Europeans. There were also two Africans, 14 Americans and one Australian.

It is worth mentioning that among the immigrants nearly 25,000 lived in rural areas of the district. The number of persons born in Kanniyakumari district, but enumerated in other districts was 25,287. As such, it is clear that the impact of movement of the people in and out of the district has been negligible. One more or less cancels the other, thereby the population of the district is not significantly affected.

TABLE – 3:3

Taluk-wise Distribution of population between Rural and Urban areas in Kanniyakumari District (1961, 1971 and 1981)

Name of the Taluks	1961			1971			1981		
	Rural	*Urban*	*Total*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Total*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Total*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*	*(10)*
1. Vilavankode	303,843	13,708	317,551	373,630	16,198	389,828	440,163	18,427	458,590
2. Kalkulam	310,303	30,164	340,467	378,789	35,708	414,497	435,263	41,370	476,633
3. Thovalai	62,292	–	62,292	78,252	–	78,252	88,176	–	88,176
4. Agastees-waram	170,398	106207	276,605	187.473	152,499	339,972	214,265	185,735	400,000
District Total	846,836	150,079	996,915	1,018,144	204.405	1,222,549	1,177,867	245,532	1,423,399

District Census Handbooks of 1961, 1971 and 1981, Kanniyakumari District.

Distribution between Rural and Urban areas : The percentage of urban population in the district was 15.06 in 1961. It went up to 16.72 in 1971. A further increase has been registered in 1981 taking the percentage of Urban population to 17.25. Though the urban population in the district is slowly increasing when compared with urban population at state level, the Kanniyakumari District is dominated by rural population. The percentage of urban population in the State is 32.9 and in Kanniyakumari district, the percentage is only 17.25.

The talukwise details of distribution of population between the rural and urban areas in the district may be seen in Table – 3:3.

Density : The density of population in Kanniyakumari district is more than State average. The Kanniyakumari district which has an area of 1684 sq. kms. (1.3 per cent of Tamil Nadu) supports a population of 14,23,399, i.e. 2.94 per cent of Tamil Nadu.

Languages : Only Tamil and Malayalam are the main languages of this district. Of these two, Tamil is spoken by 12,71,934 persons and Malayalam is spoken by 1,38,859 persons. The number of households and persons speaking different languages in Kanniyakumari district and in Tamil Nadu may be seen in Tables – 3:4 and 3:5 respectively.

The Malayalam speaking population in the State of Tamil Nadu is 5,77,890. Out of this, about 24 per cent live in this district. The percentage of Tamil speaking population in the district is 89.36. This means that the percentages of persons speaking Tamil and persons speaking Malayalam happen to be more in the district when compared with the State. The normal inference is, therefore, that the population speaking the languages other than these two, is considerably less in this district.

The close association with Malayalam speaking population and the traditional differences in the district have markedly affected the linguistic pattern of the district. In order to bring out these linguistic peculiarities of the district, a special study was organised for the Kanniyakumari district Gazetteer. This was conducted by the Department of Linguistics of Annamalai University. The distinct regional usages and the dialect variations have been studied in depth. The special report on this may be seen in the Appendix to this chapter. Simultaneously, a study of folklores of the district was also specially taken up. This report may be seen in Appendix – 2.

Table – 3:4

No. of persons speaking different languages in Kanniyakumari district.

Languages	*No. of Households*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Gujarati	301	844	794	1638
Hindi	25	96	56	152
Kannada	31	82	72	154
Malayalam	26539	69426	69433	138859
Marathi	11	29	16	45
Oriya	1	1	–	1
Punjabi	2	2	3	5
Tamil	249143	641620	630314	1271934
Telugu	416	1051	1036	2087
Urdu	73	211	195	406

Table – 3:5

No. of persons speaking different languages in Tamil Nadu

Languages	*No. of Households*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Assamese	61	107	87	194
Bengali	977	1940	1775	3715
Gujarati	43620	110113	106925	217038
Hindi	20285	59531	52058	111589
Malayalam	122154	306278	271612	517890
Marathi	12777	33046	32150	65196
Oriya	336	755	625	1380
Punjabi	1203	2632	2450	5082
Sanskrit	56	130	114	244
Sindhi	1836	5048	4919	9967
Tamil	8,813176	20,683,066	20,362,525	41,015,591
Telugu	842,485	2,015,573	1,972,894	3,918,467
Urdu	152,697	438,292	426,519	814,811

Religion and Caste : The details of population are not published by the Census Department separately for various religions. The district had a dominant Hindu population as per 1951 Census. The Hindus formed about 60 per cent of the population; next to this were Christians who formed about 33 per cent and next to this were Muslims who accounted for 5 per cent of the population. The rest is covered by other religions. These figures might have undergone considerable changes in the last four decades. But, the Hindus obviously form the majority of the population in the district.

The caste system in the society has weakened to a great extent especially after independence because of growth of education and improvements in transport and communication. The rigid social divisions in terms of caste noticed and dwelt at length by the British historians are no longer as significant as they were in those days. Mention may, however, be made of a few castes, which continue to be fairly dominant in the district. Generally, in the southern districts including Madurai and Ramanathapuram, Nadars form one of the major communities. A large section of this community has joined Christianity. The people of this community have been remarkably successful both in agriculture and business.

Nanjil Nadu Vellalas who are said to have come from Madurai in the first century A.D. also form another and major community in the district. As Kanniyakumari district formed part of the Pandya kingdom for a long time, probably these agriculturists might have moved southward from Tirunelveli district.

There are two Paravas Communities, of which one figures under the scheduled caste. The population of these Paravas is 1,472 as per the 1981 Census. The other paravas Community is the third chief community of this district. The people of this community mostly follow Catholism. They are sea-faring people who are believed to have spread in the coastal areas from Tuticorin.

There are Mukthavas, who specialise in pearl fishing. They are believed to have come from Sri Lanka. Most of them are Catholic Christians. Krishnavagaiyars trace their origin to Ambadi, the place of Sri Krishnan's birth. Their main occupation is agriculture. There are Nayars who were formerly engaged in Armies. Now they have taken mainly to agriculture, Government service and other professions.

The communities of Vilakkithalanayar, Kammalar or Asari and Chackarevars and Kerala Mudalis are some of the important communities of the district.

The district has a Scheduled Caste population of 4.23 per cent and a Scheduled Tribe population of 0.45 per cent. The taluk-wise details of the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may be seen in Table – 3:6.

The structure of the Hindu society in the district is not different in any aspect. The same religious beliefs and practices are followed. There were 126 temples in the district as per 1961 Census. In Shri Thanumalayan temple of Sucindram, Shri Kanniyakumari Amman temple, Cape Comarin and the Nagaraja temple, Nagercoil, Kumaran Koil, Padmanabha swamy temble and Bagavathi temple of the district, Saivite and Vaishnavite shrines may be seen in the same temples in many places. For poojas in temples, generally Tantric systems are followed.

The chief deities worshipped are Siva, Vishnu, Pillayar, Murugar, Ambigai (Bhagavathi) and Sastha. The worship of Ambigai and Sastha and (in some places) Muruga is very popular. The famous Bhagavati temple situated on the shore at Kanniyakumari (Cape Comarin) attracts thousands of persons from all over India. The Subramaniaswamy temple (Kumara Koil) situated near Thuckalay is a famous shrine dedicated to Lord Muruga and attracts considerable devotees. Among the important Siva temples mention may be made to the Neelakantaswami koil at Padmanabhapuram, the Thirumala temple at Munchirai (the main deities here are Siva and Vishnu) the Thirunandhikkara temple on the way to Pechipparai and the Thirupparappu temple. The Thiruvattar temple and the Thiruppathisaram temple near Nagercoil are some of the noted Vishnu temples. The Parakkai temple near Nagercoil dedicated to Madhusoodanaperumal could also be mentioned. An annual utsavam is held in all the major temples of the district. In some temples, there may even be two or more *utsavams* in a year. Generally, the *utsavams* last for 10 days. The *Utsavams* attract a large number of devotees.

TABLE – 3:6*

The Talukwise details of the population of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Name of the Taluk / Town	Total Rural Urban	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Vilavankodu taluk	T	6383	6504	12887	1153	1157	2310
	R	6170	6302	12472	1153	1157	2310
	U	213	202	415	–	–	–
Kuzhitturai (M)	U	213	202	415	–	–	–
2. Kalkulam taluk	T	8829	8545	17374	1589	1481	3070
	R	7608	7399	15007	1573	1472	3045
	U	1221	1146	2367	16	9	25
Padmanabhapuram (M)	U	973	902	1875	16	9	25
Kolachel (M)	U	248	244	492	–	–	–
3. Thovalai taluk	T	4089	4118	8207	109	95	204
	R	4089	4118	8207	109	95	204
	U	–	–	–	–	–	–
4. Agastiswaram taluk	T	10748	10957	21705	396	378	774
	R	7645	7967	15612	146	157	303
	U	3103	2990	6093	250	221	471
Nagercoil (M)	U	3043	2936	5979	200	175	375
Kanniyakumari (TS.)	U	60	54	114	50	46	96

* ***Source***: Census of India, 1981, Kanniyakumari district, page-88

The observance of fasts (virathams) on particular days of the month is an important item in the religious life of the Hindus. The observance of fasts are spread all over all months of the year and are intended as occasions for intensive contemplation of God. Besides this, the followers of each sect have their own special days of fast in the year. Thus, the day known as *Vaikunta Ekadasi* is sacred to Vishnu and holy night Sivarathri is sacred to Siva. Dr. Padmanabhan adds : On Sivarathri, devotees wearing red coloured robes holding a fan of palmyrah leaves and uttering 'Govinda, Gopala' start from Thirumalai and finish their marathon pilgrimage at Thirunattalam covering a distance of nearly 100kms. within 24 hours. This is a unique festival in the district.

The rites and forms of worship of the scheduled tribes, (kanis)in general exhibit an elaborate and complex religious consciousness. Animism is the most elementary and universal concept in primitive religions. Animism is defined as including the belief in souls and in a future state, in the controlling deities and subordinate spirits. The Kanis God is legion. The Kanis believe in spirits of diverse kinds which are supposed to haunt houses and villages. They are malevolent spirits able to damage crops and cause epidemics and famine. The propitiation of these spirits is the essence of the religion of the kanis. The kanis particularly propitiate the hunting spirit. They also worship 'Agasthya' and ancestor - spirits. The chief object of worship among the kanis is said to be 'Sasthan' a forest God. But they also worship a variety of deities like Amman, Poothathamman etc., Generally, in the month of February, a festival called *Kodai* is held at which all the Kanis assemble. Worship and offerings are made to the sylven deities in a consecrated place.

Kanis : The religion of the kanis shows sign of Hinduism in it as they worship Gods like Sastha.

By the frequent contact with the people of the plains, the primitive customs and habits of the hill tribes are fast changing and they are becoming more and more civilized. For instance, till recently the kanis were in the habit of sending all their women into the seclusion of the dense jungle on the arrival of a stranger near their settlements. But, this is now seldom noticed.

The kanis are nomadic agriculturists. Rice is their staple food and they cultivate it besides topioca, various kinds of cereals, pulses, sweet, potatoes and vegetables, plantains and tobacco. The jungle kanis also

eat birds, reptiles and beasts. They also eat a kind of a bread prepared out of the fruits of a palm tree. They also collect honey for consumption and fish in the jungle streams.

The kanis use the bill-hook for loosening the soil for cultivation, for cutting firewood and for various other purposes. The Kanis are also adepts in the use of the bow to kill wild animals which destroy their crops. The bow is made of wood or bamboo and the arrow, or reed, with the help of the pellet-bow.

Pellets of stone are flung with great force. The kanis make fire by means of a hand-drill and also by the "flint and steel method" which they call "chakku mukki". The use of safety matches is now fast coming into vogue. Some of the kanis are also engaged as coolies on planters' estates or in felling timber or cutting bamboos for contractors.

The kanis are fond of sports. They are good trackers. They render help willingly and guide persons and officials who travel through the forests.

Christianity : The Christian community forms the second major community in the district.

Among the Christians in the district, the Roman Catholics constitute the major group. There are also followers of the Church of South India and of the Salvation Army. The number of Syrian Christians in the district is, however, very few. The Christians are mostly converts from the Hindus, especially from the then so called low-castes. The Christians are found in all the taluks of the district, which have been in early times the centres of the activities of the various missionaries like the London Mission Society, the Salvation Army and the Catholic Church.

It is believed that Christianity was first introduced in the Kerala region by St. Thomas (52-68 A.D.) one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. By about the 16th Century A.D. Latin Christianity began to take roots in the district mainly due to the effort of the Jesuit missionaries. St. Francis Xavier began his missionary enterprise on the coast of South India by about the middle of 16th century A.D. He received considerable help from the Portuguese authorities for his missionary activities. St. Francis Xavier, who worked for sometime in the Tuticorin coast came to Travancore in 1544 A.D. Dr. S. Padmanabhan however, observes: "St. Francis Xavier landed in 1542 at the port of Goa and came to Kanniyakumari in 1544. He went to Tuticorin from Kanniyakumari." The king of Travancore allowed

St. Xavier ample scope for his evengelising mission. St. Xavier converted a large number of Hindus to Christianity.

* St. Xavier's method of conversion was simple ; he did not wait for the erection of costly chapels and commodious churches. Wherever he made conversions he erected first cross and then a booth of branches and palm leaves which was in time replaced by a church build of stone and cement. St. Xavier had his headquarters at Kottar and it is held that his work accounts for the large element of Latin Catholics in the composition of the Christian population in and around the place.

The Catholic Mission have been very active in the District. The Church at Kottar where St. Xavier had worshipped is held sacred by the Catholics of South India. The annual festival of the Church is held in December and attracts huge congregation of Catholic Christians from all over South India. Formerly, the Catholic Churches in the district were under the Quilon Bishopric, but later on, a separate bishop was consecreted at Kottar.

With the turn of the 18th Century various Western Christian missions gradually increased their activities for spreading Christianity in the region and among them the protestant Missions were the more numerous. The London Mission Society, which is now one of the constituent bodies of the church of south India, started its work in this region as early as Travancore had erected a Church, for Protestants of Mylaudi near Kanniykumari. It worked with its headquarters at Nagercoil and did yeomen services to the people both in the fields of education and medical services.

In 1905, the London Mission Church in this district entered a union with the Churches associated with the American Missison in Madurai. Later in 1908, Churches of the Presbyterian and Congregational traditions came together to form the South India United Church. The South India United Church (S.I.U.C.) on the one hand wanted to be truly Indian and on the other hand to be stronger by uniting with the other Churches in India. In keeping with this attitude, negotiations with the Anglican Church in South India were made in 1920 and with the Methodists resolved to form part of the church of India, Burma and Ceylon accepted the scheme in 1945. The Church of South India and the Anglican church of South India came into being in 1947, and for the first time, the above Church in the district came under a Bishop. The diocese of Kanniyakumari of the Church of South India has its headquarters at Nagercoil.

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* **Please see V. Nagam Aiya's Travancore State Manual,1906 Vol. II, p.135**

The Salvation Army is also very active in the district. The Salvation Army had its headquarters at Krishnan Koil, a suburb of Nagercoil in the Agasthiswaram Taluk. The Salvation Army concentrated their work mainly among the Parayars and other depressed classes of Hindus. Thuckalay is their chief centre of work in the Kalkulam Taluk.

The Seventh Day Adventist Mission also has many Churches in the district. There are a few Syrian Jacobite Christians in the district, their activities are not, however, very prominent in the district and they are mostly confined to Trivandrum, which was the Capital of the former Travancore-State.

Muslims : The Muslims who are the third major community in the district form about 5 per cent of the population. From very early times, the ports on the West Coast attracted many sea-faring peoples of the world. It is held that the first batch of Muslims reached Malabar by about 712 A.D. They came as traders and settled in the Coastal regions. They not only respected the customs and usages of the country but also maintained cordial relations with the native population. They erected mosques in convenient places and slowly made many converts to Islam.

The General structure, customs, and manners and religious beliefs of the Muslims of the district are basically the same in other parts of the State.

The Muslims are fairly distributed in all the taluks of the district. However, at Thiruvithankodu, Thuckalay and Colachel in the Kalkulam taluk, Thittuvilai in the Thovalai taluk and Edalakudy in the Agastiswaram taluk, there are large number of Muslims mostly engaged in trading activities. The two major sections of the Muslims at this place, are the *Shiahs* and the *Sunnis*.

New Religious and Social Reform Movements and Leaders : There have occurred *no* independent religious or social reform movement in the district. The Movements that originated in other areas have spread to this region also and influenced the society. All India Organisation like the Ramakrishna Mission, the Arya Samaj and the Theosophical society contributed a great deal to the break down of severe caste barriers.

In the Trivandrum district itself, of which the present Kanniyakumari was a part then, two religious leaders namely Sri Chattampi Swamigal and Sri Narayana Guru, were born. Sri Chattampi Swamigal (1854-1924) worked for the betterment of the major Hindu Communities like the Izhavas and the Nairs and brought about a radical change in the social

order. Sri Narayana Guru was contemporary of Sri Chattampi Swamigal. He worked throughout his life for the moral and social advancement of the Harijans, Izhavas and other backward classes. The Swami campaigned for mitigating the severities of the caste system. He consecrated many shrines in various parts of Kerala, not only to the memebers of his own community, but also to others. He successfully carried on a campaign against the animal sacrifices which were freely indulged in by the Izhavas, Harijans and others in the name of religion. He spoke against various irrational practices of the Izhavas which had been responsible for enormous waste of money. He persuaded them to give up the observance of the customery rituals and cermonies like Talikettu, Tirandukalyanam, Pulikudi, etc., He was of the firm view that religion should not consist of external and meaningless rites and practices but that it should lead to the orientation of the individual to a nobler and more virtuous life. He also advocated inter-marriages between the various castes so that caste barriers may break down and a classless and casteless society may evolve.

Among certain of the Muslims in the district, the Ahamadia Movement in Islam that was started in East Punjab in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Gulam Ahamed, had spread. This Movement has over 150 organised branches all over the Indian Union. The Jamati-Ahamadia at Kottai established in 1945 is one such branch. A newly built Ahamadia Mosque with a mission house was opened in 15 June 1954 at Edalakudy, Kottar. The followers of the Movement consider Hazrat Gulam Ahamed as Prophet after Mohammed. They number very roughly 50 families at Kottar.

The name of Muthukutti Swamigal deserves a mention here. His influence against conversion of Nadars into Christianity has been remarkable (Please also see the *Note* on Folklore survey).

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance : Both matrilineal (Marumakkathayam) and Patrilineal (Makkathayam) Systems of inheritance and succession were prevalent among the people of the district. The matrilineal system of inheritance is considered to be peculiar to Kerala. In the *Marumakkathayam* system the descent is through the female line or through the sister's children. The family or *tharawad,* as it was called, consists of all the descendants of a common ancestress in the female

line only. The *tharawad* was joint family. Its property was the joint property of all the members and every one of them was entitled to maintenance from it, but was not entitled to claim partition. A partition could be effected only with the concent of all the members of the *tharawad*. The eldest male member of the family was known as the *Karanayan*. He had the absolute right of managing the family property. The only limitation on his power was that he could effect alienation of the family property only with the consent of the *anantharayana* or junior members. The junior members who had no property of their own succeeded to the *Karanayasthanan* property by the seniority. They could sue for the removal of the Karanayan from his position, if he was found guilty of proved mis-management of family property.

Marriages : From very early times, marriages have been cosidered a sacrament by the Hindus. Generally speaking, the approved rule was monogamy though polygamy existed here and there. In 1955, the Hindu Marrriage Act was enacted. This codified and reformed the law relating to Hindu marriages all over India. Monogamy was made both general and compulsory among all classes of Hindus. Among Christians, polygamy is taboo both by law and religion. Though among the Muslims polygamy is not prohibited by law or custom, public opinion has always been against it.

An interesting feature of the joint family property, under Marumakkathayam was that the wife of the Karanayan (Ammavi) exercised great influence over the affairs of the tharawad, though she and her children had no legal claims to the family property of the Karanavan. The Ammavi, was often a cause of tension within the tharawad and was never popular with the Anantharawans. The joint family system never worked harmoniously. Consequent on the revolt of the younger generation against the uncontrolled authority exercised by the Karananyan in the joint family, the Marumakkathayam system had undergone considerable changes in recent times. A series of legislative measures have made vast sections of the Hindu Community *Makkathayis*.

Originally, the Nancinad Vallalas were *Makkathayis*. But later on, they conformed to the usages of *Malayalis* by adopting the Marumakkathayam law. Edgar Thurston reports that the laws of inheritance of the Nancinad Vellalas in these days was a curious blend of the Makkathayam and Marumakkathayam system. Sons were entitled to a portion of the property, not exceeding a fourth of the self acquired property of the

father and also a fourth of what would have descended to him in a *Makkathayam* family. This was called *Ukanthutams* because it was property given out of love as opposed to right.

The need for legislation relating to marriage, family management, and inheritance, was felt by Nancinad, Vellala Community and the demand for a law on the subject arose as much from a desire to legalise the existing forms of marriage and regulation the vogue, The Nancinad, accoridng to traditions was originlally colonised by people from the Coromandal Coast. They began to change the social and domestic constitution due to the influence of the Malayalis. Their inheritance became modified, their matrimonial ideals altered, and their caste structure became in course of time an interesting model of Tamil and Malayalam social characteristics .... if the the traditional account is to be believed, the change from the *Makkathayam* to the *Marumakkathayam* system of inheritance was an act deliberately undertaken by the Community. There is no doubt that the community originally followed the *Makkathayam* system and that the features of the matriarchal system were subsequently grafted on it. There having come under the sway of a royal house following the matriarchal system of succession, a rupture with their brethren in the Tamil Country, the influence of environments, certain advantages which that system cenfers on a pre-eminently agricultural community and later the influence of the Judiciary appear to have contributed, each in a greater or less degree, to their repudiation one by one of the principles of Hindu law and acceptance of those of the *Marumakkathayam* law.[3]

Nancinad Vellala Act, 1926 enabled the members of the community to adopt 'Makkathayam' instead of 'Marumakkathayam'. With this, the Marumakkathayam system was given up by most of the Nancinad Vellalas in favour of the Makkathayam and along with it, the system gradually disappeared. Among the Nadars who are governed by the Nithakshara system of Hindu law, the form of succession has always been strictly Makkathaya,.

Among the Nairs, the law of inheritance was *Marumakkathayam,* but the Nair Regulations made it virtually Makkathayam by making the widow and the children of a deceased Nair heirs to his self-acquired property and also sanctioned the partition of the *Tharawads,* the shares being calculated per capita. The Nair Act of 1925 completely deprived the nephews of all claim to the properties of their uncles.

The Izhavas had a mixed system of Makkathayam and Marumakkathayam but with the passing of the Ezhava Regulation in Travancore in 1925, inheritance had become patrilineal.

The Kammalars always followed the patrilineal system of inheritance.

Among the Krishnavakkakar, there are two divisions. One division follows the Makkathayam system of inheritance and the other follows the Marumakkathayam.

The Kanikara followed a mixture of Makkathayam and Marumakkathayam systems. But most of the Kanikaras in the Kanniyakumari district were only *Makkathayis.* The scheduled castes of the district who are mostly Parayars have always been only *Makkathayis.* The system of inheritance among the Christians and Muslims, in the district has always been patrilineal.

HOME LIFE

Dwellings : The total number of occupied houses in the district is 2,57,300. Out of this, 2,13,123 houses are in rural areas and 44,177 in urban areas. The following figures show the information collected at the Census of 1981 with regard to the dwelling houses in the district. On a average, there are about six inmates per house.

The pattern of location of houses in the district differs fundamentally from those obtaining in the neighbouring Kerala State. In the Kerala State, a continuous expanse of isolated houses, is the striking feature, whereas in the district and on the east coast in general, close aggregation of houses is the common feature.

The dwellings of the poor are generally built of mud. They have no doors or windows and are thatched with planted cadjan or palmyra leaves. The houses of the middle classes have walls made of wood, or sun-dried or burnt bricks. They also have substantial roofs and also doors and windows. They may be either thatched or tiled. The richer classes have large houses built according to modern patterns. They are of brick or concrete and are also equipped with drainage and other modern conveniences. The houses of the well-to-do and the educated classes are well furnished, and also contain radio sets and other luxury articles. The poorer sections like the Scheduled Castes and Tribes live in huts

and their households generally have only a few earthernware pots and mats.

Dress and Ornaments : Simple and elegant dress is a characteristic feature of the people of the district. In the past, certain distinguishing features in appearance and dress helped one to identify the caste or class to which a person belonged. Nowdays, such distinguishing features in appearance and dress among the various castes and have disappeared, giving place to certain uniformity in dress and appearance. Western ideas of dress and manners have been found most convenient. The great majority of the official and school going population have taken to wear western dress. The dress of women is undergoing a similar change. Almost among all castes and communities today, in matters of dress, new fashions like the shirt, the bush coat, the blouse etc., have rapidly spread. The formal dress of the male is more or less similar now among all castes and communities. It consists of a *dhoti* and shirt and in some cases also an upper cloth over the shoulders. In the urban parts, the pants and the bush shirt or bush coat have also become popular. The quality of the material used for the dress generally varies according to the means of the individuals.

The *pudavai* (Sarees) and the *rawikkai* (Jacket) constitute the common female attire. There is, however, marked variation in the dress and the manner of dressing among the women of the different communities. Some among the Muslims (both men and women) wear dress in their customary pattern which distinguishes their appearance from the members of other communtities. The Malayali women are generally fond of white dress. In recent years however, fashions ruling in other communities are being copied.

With the passage of time, the craze for heavy ornaments has disappeared among women of most of the communities and the more fashionable among them now restrict ornaments to the minimum. Usually, they consist of a gold chain, a pair of Kammals (Studs for the ears), a pair or two of *valaiyals* (armlets in gold worn on the wrists), gold rings, and a pair of kolusus (generally in silver for the ankles).

Food : Rice is the staple food of the rich and poor alike in the district. Some among the poorer section also use tapioca. Among the Hindus, some sections are vegetarians. Generally, the Muslims and the Christians take more fish and meat than others. Beverages like tea and coffee have widely spread even into the rural areas of the district.

Festivals and Amusements : Festivals are held in all the taluks in connection with various celebrations in the temples, mosques and churches. The car festival at Sucindram attracts large crowds of people in the month of January. The Kodai festival in the month of March in the Mantakkad temple in the Kalkulam taluk draws a large gathering. The Thirukalyana Utsavam in the Kumarakoil temples in the Kalkulam taluk in the month of March - April is observed as an important festival. Pongal (in January) and Deepavali (in November) are also occasions for festivity and rejoicing among the Hindu Communities. The Malayalis celebrate Onam in August - September with feasts and sports. Muslims in all the taluks observe Muharram and Ramzan. Christmas is an important festival for the Christians. In the St. Xavier's church at Kottar, an annual festival in the month of December is usually celebrated on a very grand scale and attracts Catholic from all over the South India.

While time-honoured amusements are still enjoyed by the less sophisticated people in the rural areas, the cinema has firmly established itself all over the district as the most popular form of recreation. Music is in great demand as also the dramas. Western games like football, tennis, volley-ball, badminton, etc., have also becomes much popular among the educated youth of the district.

FOLK ARTS AND DANCES

Bow Song : Bow Song (Villu - Pattu) is an ancient form of musical-story-telling art of southern Tamil Nadu. This art is famous particularly in Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts.

Bow, the age-old weapon of warriors - paradoxically lends itself to be used as a primary musical instrument for the villu - p - pattu artists. They use *udukku* (உடுக்கு ' *Kudam*, (குடம்) *thala-k-kattai* (தாளக்கட்டை) etc., as supplementary instruments in their performances. *Udukku* mentioned in the ancient Tamil literature as *thudi*, (துடி) is a small drum, with a slender middle portion which is held in the left hand and played by the fingers of the right hand. This, may be seen in the pictures and statues of the Lord Nataraja, - the Cosmic Dancer, adoring his left hand.

Kudam is an earthern pot, specially made for villu-p-pattu performances. Two small blocks of strong abony wood serve as *thalakkattai*. Now-a-days, many modern instruments are added to the old

ones. Similarly to the list of conventional ragas like, *Kalyani, Bupalam, Pilahari, Neelambari* etc., employed by *villu - p - pattu* artists, are added cinema - tunes; and , it is not without reason that the people call it *Naveena villu-p- pattu* (நவீன வில்லுப்பாட்டு)

From the time immemorial, *villu-p-pattu* has been an important part of rural festival, especially in village temples. These artists use simple traditional songs, effectively interlinked by conversational remarks. The main artist usually tells a story or a select episode from the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharatha*. etc., by folk songs and also uses his bow in unison. With the accompaniment of the simple orchestra, the *villu-p-pattu* artist provides entertainment, often very educatively, to his audience. The *villu-p-pattu* performances normally go on till late hours in nights, sometimes even till Sun - rise.

Vil or *villu* in colloquial Tamil, means 'bow'. As the vibration of the string of a prominent bow is used by the artist as 'base' for his performance, this is called *villu-p-pattu*. There is a view [4] that the plain bow-string is the precursor of various kinds of *yazh* (யாழ்). In the *Perumpanatruppadai* (பெரும்பாணாற்றுப்படை) we see a reference to a *yazh* (யாழ்) in the shape of a bow.[5]

The bow is usually made of a piece of mature palmyrah tree - bottom, measuring about two yards. tapering at both ends. The full length of the bent rod is supported by a rope, coiled around it, in order to stand the strain of the tight string. It is decorated by coloured cloth and paper. Small bronze bells are attached to the rod through rings fixed on the rod. There are normally eleven bells; sometimes the number is increased to 13 or reduced to 9. The string is made of twisted hide.

The main artist uses two small sticks, one in each hand and gently strikes the string with the sticks. These sticks also have strings of small bells tied around their handles. So, when *villu- p-pattu* artist or his supportive artist plays upon the string of the bow with the sticks, a combination of sounds of bells and the vibration of the string results.

Sometimes, the *villu-p-pattu* team divides itself into two groups, each trying to prove opposite view-points of a subject ; and conducts the programme by exchange of questions and answers. This is called *Lavani-p-pattu*. These performances are full of jestful taunts and retorts; and their repertoire would seem inexhaustible.

The songs used by the *villu-p-pattu* artists are mostly traditional folk-songs. They introduce changes now and then to make them lively and relevant to the audience.

The themes for these performances are usually taken from the *Puranas* and traditional stories. The famous among them are :-

Sastha Kadhai *(சாஸ்தா கதை)*
Hiranyan Samharam *(உறிரண்யன் சம்ஹாரம்)*
Valliamman Kadhai *(வள்ளியம்மன் கதை)*
Parvathiamman Kadhai *(பார்வதியம்மன் கதை)*
Markkandan thapas *(மார்க்கண்டன் தபசு)*
Harichandran Kadhai *(ஹரிச்சந்திரன் கதை)*
Krishnasamy Kadhai *(கிருஷ்ணசாமி கதை)*
Perumalsamy Kadhai *(பெருமாள் சாமி கதை)*
Makaliamman Kadhai *(மாகாளியம்மன் கதை)*
Seetha Kalyanam and *(சீதா கல்யாணம்)* and
Keechakan Vadham *(கீசகன் வதம்)*

A few old stories like *Sudalai Madan Kadhai (சுடலை மாடன்கதை)* and *Neeli Kadhai* *(நீலி கதை)* also deserve special mention.

The social changes and the consequent aspirations of the people also have affected the *villu-p-pattu* literature. The *Muthu-p-pattan* kadhai *(முத்தப்பட்டன் கதை)* of the 18th Century is the story of a brahmin boy, who married two girls of *Sakkilia* Community, fought for them and sacrificed his life for them. The stories like :-

Mandira Murthi Kadhai *(மந்திர மூர்த்தி கதை)*
Chinnathambi Kadhai *(சின்னத் தம்பி கதை)*
Chinna Nadan Kadhai *(சின்ன நாடன் கதை)*
Kavuthala Madan Kadhai *(கவுதல மாடன் கதை)*
Ananthayi Kadhai *(அனந்தாயி கதை)* and
Thottu-k-kari Amman Kadhai *(தோட்டுக்காரி அம்மன் கதை)* are also later additions and relate to the life-stories of some heroes or heroines.

The credit goes to the people of Kanniyakumari district and the surrounding areas, for having saved the art of *villu-p-pattu* from vanishing, due to lack of royal support from the 14th century onwards. A

number of *villu-p-pattu* songs have been printed. *Diwan Vetri* (*(திவான் வெற்றி)* written by Thiruvanantham Pillai of Shenbagaramapudur is the first *villu-p-pattu*, that was printed as early as 1795. This narrates the success-story of Dewan Raja Kesawadas, who secured a victory over Tipu Sultan in 1790 on behalf of the Raja of Travancore. Arumugaperumal of Agastiswaram and Dr. T. Nataraja of Madurai - Kamaraj University, have published a number of *villu-p-pattu* songs.

The list of popular *villu-p-pattu* artists of this century should be very long. To the early period belong veterans of this district like Osaruvilai Appavu Nadar, Theroor Andar Pillai, Thovalai Sundaram Pillai, Punnarkulam Kolappa Pillai, Kurunkulam Narayana Pillai, Mathivilai Ponnumuthu Asan and Kalanikulam Madasamy.

Thovalai Sundaram Pillai was the disciple of *Sadavadani* Sheikku Thampi Paavalar. He used his talent as *villu-p-pattu* artist, to spread a national consciousness among the people.

Villu-p-pattu has not been the prerogative of men artists only. Many women have been drawn towards it and have also distinguished themselves. It is said that the mother of Karunkulam Narayana Pillai used to perform *villu-p-pattu* balancing a pot on her head and braiding the beads by her mouth, which bordered the realms of magic.

Sattur Pichaikutty was responsible for having widened the scope of *villu-p-pattu.* He gave these performances in public functions also. However, the credit for spreading this art to other districts of Tamil Nadu goes to *Kalaivanar* N.S. Krishnan. He was a disciple of Thovalai Sundaram Pillai. His *villu-p-pattu* on Mahatma Gandhi became very popular among the people. Kothamangalam Subbu, Kuladeivam Rajagopal. S.S. Rajendran, N.S.K. Kolappan and many others became famous for *villu-p-pattu* after *Kalaivanar* N.S. Krishnan. *Kalaimamani* Subbu Arumugam learnt the art from *Kalaivanar.* He has modernised the art by including electronic musical instruments.[6] Now-a-days, *villu-p-pattu* is no longer confined with *kodai* festivals in village temples. It has grown as an effective multipurpose media of communication including political.

Folk arts and dances : Many folk arts and dances are popular in this district. They are played during the time of festivals in temples, celebrations in schools, etc.,

Thiruvathirai Kali : Among the folk dances, *Thiruvathiraikali* occupies the pride of place. It resembles *kummi* and is played especially during the Onam festival. The Players are young girls. The necessary number of girls is 8,10, 12 or 16 for each dance. They move round and sing in chorus. Each girl strikes the stick (Kole) which she holds in each hand and the striking of the sticks and the steps, which she makes are rhythmical to the tune.

Kalial: This is a folk dance played by group of men or boys in the country side. A group leader sings songs and keeps time with cymbals. The players stand in a cirlce with sticks in their hand and dance round a lighted lamp repeating the songs sung by the leader. They turn, twist, lean forward and backward, squat and move round singing to the tune. At the beginning the steps are elaborate and at times, they are also very quick and violent. When invited to perform at a function, the players generally begin the dance with an invocation for heavenly aid and conclude the dance with a torch - dance using lighted torches. This folk dance exhibits the artistic and recreative life of the country side.

Kathakali : *Kathakali* is a unique form of drama, which had its origin in Travancore. Kathakali (story-dance) is a relatively recent (fifteenth or sixteenth century) development of earlier dances, which, like dances every where, arose out of religious expression through symbolical action. In this art-form, the characters express their ideas not by words, but by significant gestures. The movements are adopted from the Bharatha Natya with suitable modifications. The conversations between the character, as well as the narrative portion of the story, invariably in verse, are recited in a loud voice by the *Bhagavathar* to the accompaniment of musical instruments. The action is prompted by his words. The costume and make up of the actor are also important aspect in Kathakali. There are standard make up for the different types of actors, but red, yellow, green black and white are the colours used. The head dresses are made of light-weight wood and are decorated with pieces of mirror, spangles, and coloured stones. Usually, a kathakali performance extends from eight to ten hours. With the advent of the cinema, the popularity of this art has declined. It is now played in the temples at Thiruvattar, Thirparappu, Ponmana, Kuzhithurai, Neyyoor and Munchira in the Kanniyakumari district twice a year during the time of festivals.

Ottam Thullal : *Ottam Thullal* is a form of story telling. It is a popular form of amusement, staged in the temple premises and Malayalam is the

language commonly used. It combines dance, song and acting. The story - teller is aided by two musicians, one, who leads the song and plays on an instrument, and the other, who keeps time by beating cymbal. The actor wears a simple costume consisting of a skirt, some arm and chest decorations and an elaborate head dress. 'Ottam Thullai' is now played in the temples of Thiruvattar, Thirparappu Ponmana and Thirunanthikara in the district during the time of festivals.

Karagam Dance : This is a kind of dance common in the country side. It is played by both men and women during the time of festivals and marriages.

Kalari[7] : *Kalari,* also known as *Adimurai* in Kanniyakumari district, is an ancient martial art, still preserved in the villages of this district and also in Kerala. A tradition believed to have been founded by Parasurama is known *Vadakkan Kalari :* and another credited to Agasthiar is called as *Thekkan Kalari.* Kanniyakumari district is famous for Thekkan Kalari, in which emphasis is on striking at vital points of the body and *not* on weapons, even though sword, knife, *urumi* (rolling sword), *mankombu* (horns of a deer), *Kandakkodali,* (a kind of axe), *mazhu* (a kind of axe) etc., are also used.

There are inscriptional evidences to show that *Thekkan Kalari* specialists were employed in the Chola army. There is a reference to one 'Rajadhitya Devar Perumpadi Naickar Malaimattu Nandikkarai Putur Vellankumaran. From this, it is to be inferred that Chief Commander ot Rajadhitya Chola, Vellankumaran belonged to Thirunandikkarai, a village of Kanniyakumari district. The Venad King Marthanda Varma had to overcome a number of powerful enemies, before he could establish himself in the throne. His success is attributed mainly to his mastery in *Kalari.* Thalakulam Velu Thambi Dallavai, whose challenge worried the British in no small measure, was a kalari expert.

Thekkan Kalari consists or five major parts, namely, *Suvadu, (சுவடு)* *Kaippore, (கைப்போர்)* (fighting with hands), *Poottum Pirivum* *(பூட்டும், பிரிவும்)* (locking and extricating), *Ayudhapayitru* *(ஆயுதப் பயிற்று)* (training in Weaponry) and *Kambuveechu* *(கம்பு வீச்சு, சிலம்பம்)* (fighting with stick).

There are a number of similarities between the Kalari and the martial arts of China and Japan, like Kung-Fu, and Karate. It is said that many Japanese experts in Karate have come to Kanniyakumari district to study the *Kalari* system, which in all probabilities could be considered the mother of Karate and Kung-Fu. Even now, there are one or more Kalari schools in each village of the district. The utility of this ancient art to the police and defence personnel deserves careful study.

COMMUNAL LIFE

Pilgrim Centres : From historical times, the Kanniyakumari region has been famous for pilgrim centres. Kanniyakumari (Cape Comorin) has been one of the sacred pilgrim centres for the Hindus from very ancient times. This place generally known as Kanniyakumari (Cape Comorin) is at the confluence of the three seas - the Arabian sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian ocean. The shore temple at Kanniyakumari is dedicated to the virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari. In the 984 A.D., Raja Raja Chola built a Siva temple here which is known Guhanatheswaram. The temple dedicated to Lord Subramanya, viz., Kumaran Koil in the Kalkulam taluk is also an important pilgrim centre and attracts a large number of pilgrims. The Nagaraja temple at Nagercoil is a famous one. There is a belief that a visit to this a temple removes *Sarpa dosha* .

Sucindram in the Agasthiswaram taluk is yet another pilgrim centre of importance in the district. There is a famous and ancient temple dedicated the Thanumalaya Perumal. The temple building contains numerous inscriptions of great archaeological importance. Traditon goes that Indira was absolved from his sins here and hence the name "*Sucindram*". Tradition also has it that this temple here was built by Indira himself.

Clubs and Associations : There are a number of good recreation clubs and other associations which popularise modern games and sports and promote healthy communal life. Besides these, there are also a few organisations devoted to the service of the community in general or for the promotion of particular interests.[8]

Economic and Professional groups and classes in relation to Social Life : The picture of the society of the district at present is radically different from what it was a hundred years ago. There has been spectacular progress in all aspects of social and economic life, especially professions and callings. Today all sections of the society - the rich and the poor, the developed and the backward-have equal opportunties for self-expression and self development. Imbued with the concept of a welfare State, the present day Government provides all incentives and concessions for the education and the employment of the poor and the backward sections of the population. Unlike olden days, the members of any caste do not have to follow their ancestral professions. Members of many castes like the Nadars and Izhavas of the district have given up their traditional callings and have taken to other professions.

The increasing variety of occupations such as clerical, teaching etc., whose income is characterised by steadiness, has given birth to a district salaried class. The emergence of these classes modifying the caste system of occupation has been the most dominant featue of the changing pattern of the society in the district, as in many other places in the country.

KANNIYAKUMARI TAMIL

(Linguistic Peculiarities)

The present linguistic survey report gives an outline of all those district regional usages and the dialect variations found in the speech behaviour of the Tamils living in the Kanniyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

The present study is based on the linguistic materials collected during the field work carried out by a team of experts from the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistic, Annamalai University during Aug-September, 1980. The data have been elicited directly from the native speakers of the area who represent the various taluks and different social communities. The data have been elicited using 'Sociolinguistic' and 'lexical' questionnaires prepared by the CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University. The data have been first phonetically transcribed and later on the same tape-recorded for the purpose of checking by the investigators.

Kanniyakumari district comprises of four taluks viz., Thovalai, Agastiswaram, Kalkulam, and Vilavancode and in all these taluks points were selected and field work was carried out by the team for the collection

of relevant linguistic data. Kanniyakumari district spreads over an area of 6184 sq. kilometers and has a population of 1,500,000 approximately. The district is surrounded by Kerala state in the north west, the western ghats in the north east, the Tirunelveli district in the east and by the three seas on the south eastern, southern and western sides. Kanniyakumari district has the highest rate of literacy in Tamil Nadu i.e. arround 58.1 per cent.

The main occupation of the people of the area is agriculture. However, considerable population is also engaged in small scale industries like cashew nut industry, weaving, rubber plantation, etc., There are many castes in this district. Major among them are Harijans, Nadars, Vellalas, Muslims, Nairs, Ezhavas, etc., There are three major religions viz., Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. Different people of the same caste group are found both in Hinduism at Christianity, For example nearly 50 per cent of the Nadar caste professes christianity whereas the other half owe their allegiance to Hinduism. Both these religious groups are found in almost all the villages and towns in the district. Likewise there are Christians and Hindus in castes like Vellalas and Harijan. The number of Christians in the Vellala and Harijian groups are low in percentage when compared to that of Nadar caste.

In one or two taluks the Vellala population is higher than some of the other castes. However the predominant community in Kalkulam, Vilavancode and Agastiswaram taluks is the Nadar community. The investigators selected information in such a way that most of the groups are given representation so that the final linguistic analysis will represent the over all description of the speech variety under investigation. Informants were also selected on the basis of certain social parameters like age group distinction, economic state, occupational status, educational status, etc.

The Kanniyakumari speech area is one of the five dialect areas as identified by the present day Dialectologists. The other dialect areas are 1. Southern dialect area 2. Eastern dialect area 3. Western dialect area and 4. Northern dialect area. These dialect areas are demarcated on the basis of the dialect boundaries drawn. In order to demarcate the dialect boundary dialectologists use the concept namely *"isoglosses"* which means distinctive linguistic usages that are exclusively found in the area concerned. Sometimes we come across more than one isogloss in different levels of the language. All such isoglosses put together is drawn as bundle of isoglosses'. If an area could be demarcated by one or more

exclusive isoglosses than that speech area is called a *dialect area.* If a number of Isoglosses are responsible for differentiating a particular dialect area then that type of dialect area is popularly known as *'focal area'.* We don't normally find many such areas, but there are atleast some areas where we could find the concentration of bundles of isoglosses and a number of exclusive isoglosses. It is interesting to note that Kanniyakumari speech area is one such focal area as far as the demarcation of Tamil dialect areas is concerned. There are as many as thirty isoglosses in the phonological and grammatical levels and more than 300 exclusive lexical isoglosses that distinguish Kanniyakumari dialect area as different from other dialect areas. The following are the distinct isoglosses drawn with the help of all those identifiable peculiar linguistic features found in use.

1. Phonological level.

1. Occurrence of /R/ as a separate phoneme (This is only speech area where we find the preservation of the sound in /R/ speech. In all other areas a complete merger has taken place between [r] and [R] and we find only [r] in speech).

2. Other Phonological features:

h	→	ky
R	→	t
t	→	r
c	→	y
y	→	c
NP	→	NN
$P_1 P_1$	→	$N_1 P_1$
		$P_2 P_2$
R	→	t
o^1	→	0
n	→	o
a^1	→	o^1
b	→	v

t	→	j	
t	→	y	
o	→	1	
o	→	o	etc.

3. Occurrence of the vowel [o]

II. Grammatical Level

1. Instrumental Case–Koptu, –ittu
2. Sociative Case–o:teku:te
3. Dative Case –il
4. Genitive Case – ukke, unto and – a
5. Locative Case –i
6. Present tense – ϕ and –y
7. Past tense –y–
8. Future tense –CCuv–
9. Negative Markers
   (i) a:tt
   (ii) luf + elle,
   (iii) Inf + a :ota : [m]
   (iv) Inf:ma:ut +
10. Infinitive –cca
11. V.P. of viṭu –kiṯṯu
12 Loss of Pronominal termination

III rd person neuter

13. Ordinal suffix –a:maṯṯe
14 Adverbial suffix –a:ṯṯu
15 Permissive marker –a:ṯṯu
16 Conditional suffix –a:kki

17 Occurrence of the following pronominal terminations :

(i) II Pr. Sg. –iye.

(ii) II Pr. Pl. –eyo /-e:l

(iii) III Pr. Pl/Hon. Sg. –a^1/-a^{1}va

(iv) II Pr. Human Pl.

18 Imperative Negative –atte

19 Auxiliaries

(i) Completive

(ii) Reflexive

20. II Pr. Plural base no –

21. Purposive –una:ke

22. Ablative –leṇṇu, –leṇṭu

23. Gender Number Markers

(i) Masculine Plural –vanuko

(ii) Faminine Plural –vaḷuko

24. Use of Emphatic form –a:kkum

25. Use of Temporal markers –Pe [1] and –ocile

26. Human plural marker and its use

27. Loss of –kk– in the strong verb stems before vowel beginning suffixes.

In the section on linguistic peculiarities a detailed description of all those distinct peculiar features which occur in the speech varieties of Tamil as spoken in the Kanniyakumari district has been presented with suitable illustrations.

Kanniyakumari district as mentioned above is an adjoining district to the Kerala State. Moreover, this district was with Kerala till 1956. There are a number of places (like villages and towns) which are cent per cent bilingual in nature. During our survey work we were able to notice cent per cent bilingualism in practice in almost all the border areas of Kanniyakumari district. The Tamil accent which we heard in these areas is heavily influenced by the Malayalam intonation pattern. The speakers of Tamil who live in these areas pronounce many of the nasal plus plosive

clusters [N] as nasal plus nasal [NN] cluster. Also the impact of Malayalam lexical features is heavy unlike the grammatical features. In the pronunciation vowels one can easily identify the occurrence of [o] in the word final position. The frequency of the occurrence of Velar nasal [ṅ] and palatal nasal - [ṅ] is also considerably high when compared to the situation in other dialects.

B. Peculiar Features–Phonological Level : The following distinct phonological (sound) Correspondences are found to occur in the Kanniyakumari Tamil.

I. Correspondences

C.1 K (க்) → K^Y ((க்ய)

te:mka: te:mk^Y_e 'Coconut'

va:ykka: va:kk$^Y_{a:}$ 'Canal'

ma:nka: ma:n k^Y_e 'mango' etc.

C.2 R (ற்) → **t** (த்)

Ka:RRu → Ka:ttu 'air'

ma:RRu → ma:ttu 'change'

teRRu → tettu' 'mistake' etc.

C.3 t (த்)) → **r** (ர்)

atu → aru 'that is'.

Koti → Kori 'acute desire'

cate → care 'flesh'

Katavu → karavu 'door'

Ca:ti → Ca:ri 'Caste'

Viti → viri 'fate'

Kate → Kare 'Story'

Kutippu → Kurippu 'a fish'

Ka:tu → ka:ru 'ear' etc.

C.4 C (ச) → Y (ய்)

Ka:cu	→	Ka:yi	'coin'
Kocu	→	Koyyu	'mosquito'
to:ce	→	to:ye	'a rice cake'
Pace	→	paye	'gum'
Pacu[vu]	→	Payuvu	'Cow'
pa:ci	→	Pa:yi	'a kind of water plant'
pe:cu	→	pe:yi	'speak'
Kacappu	→	Kayappu	'bitterness'
Kocavam	→	Koyavam	'a kind of saree folding'
Paci	→	Payi	'hungry'
Kacakku	→	Kayakku	'squeeze'
u:ci	→	u:yi	'needle' etc.

C.5 Y (ய்) → C (ச)

mayakkam	→	macakkam	'unconsciousness'
oyaram	→	ocaram	'height'

C.6 RP → NN

(i) mk → ṅṅ

te:mka:	→	te:ṅṅa:	'coconut'
ma:mka:	→	Ma:ṅṅa:	'mango'

(ii) n̄e → ṅṅ

Kun̄ci	→	kuṅṅi	'young one of a bird'
Pan̄ce/i	→	Paṅṅ	'Cotton'

pa:n̄cu/i → Pa:ṅṅi having flown' etc.

(iii) ṇt (ந்த்)) → **ṇṇ** (ந்ந்)

Paṉtu	→	Paṉṉu	'ball'
Vaṉta:n	→	vaṉṉa:n	'came-he'
naṭaṉta:l	→	ṉaṭaṉṉa:ḷ	'walked-she' etc

(iv) nt (ந்ந்) → **oṭ** (ந்ட்)

kaṇṇu-leruṇtu	→	Kaṇṇu leṇṭu	'from the eye'
marattu laruṇtu	→	leruntu leṇtu	'from the tree'

(v) mk (ங்க்) → ṉṉ (யின்)

Varuva:n˘emkil	→	varuva:n enns:l	'If he will come'.
Pa:tta:n emkil	→	pa:tta:n eṇṇa:l	'if he saw'

b] $P_1 P_1 \rightarrow \begin{matrix} N_1 P_1 \\ P_2 P_2 \end{matrix}$

(i) ṭṭ → ṉt

ceyya-ma:ṭṭe:n	→	ceyya ma:ṇt-e:n	'I will not do'
vara-ma:tta:ṉ	→	vara ma:ṇte:n	'he will not come'

(ii) kk → **cc**

paṭikko	→	paṭicco	'to study'
natikko	→	naṭicco	'to act'
Kuṭikkuva:n	→	kuṭicciya:n	' he drinks'
Vaṭikko	→	vaṭicciyo	'you [ag.] extract' etc.

C.7 R (ற்) → **t** (ட்)

kaRi	→	keṭi	'curry'
a:Ru	→	a:tu	'six'
ku:Ru	→	ku:ṭu	'part'
kavRu	→	kavṭu	'rope'
aRin̄ce:n	→	aṭin̄ce:n	'knew'
pa Ricca:n	→	paṭicca	'plucked he' etc.

C.8 **o: → o**

varam po:[l]	→	varam pe[1]	'while coming'
naṭakkam po: [1]	→	naṭakkam Po[1]	'while walking'

C.9 **u → o**

a:ru	→	a:ro	'who'
kn:ṭu	→	ka:ṭo	'forest'
pa:ṭṭu	→	po:ṭṭo	'song'
ma:tu	→	ma:ṭo	'cattle' etc.

C.10 **a: → e:**

va:mku	→	ve:mku	'buy' etc.

C.11 **b → v**

be:mku	→	ve:mku	'bank'
ben̄ci	→	ven̄cj	'bench'
bra:nti	→	vra:nti	'brandy' etc.

C.12 **t → ḷ**

vantukita:tu	→	vantukiḷa:tu	'it cannot come by itself'
paṭiccikiṭuva:n	→	padiccikiluva:n	'he can study for himself' etc.

C.13	**t → y**				
	neyta:n	→	neyya:n	'he wove'	
	koyta:n	→	koyya:n	'he cut'	etc.
C.14	**o → i**				
	onakku	→	okku ikku	'to you' [Sg.]	
	onakke	→	okke ikee	'your'	
C. 15	**o → l**				
	conna:n	→	cenna:n	'said-he'	
C. 16	**m → r**				
	var-a:me	→	var-a:re	'without coming'	
	naṭakk-a:me	→	naṭakk-a:re	'without walking'	

II. Occurrence of /R/ **:** /R/ is in contrast in /r/ and other stops like /t/ /ṭ/ etc. This sound is found only in this dialect. In all other areas /R/ is pronounced only as [r].

e.g.	/a: [R] u/	'river/six'
	/ka: [R] [R] u/	'wind'
	/ka : [R] [R] u/	'change'
	/ka [R] i/	'meat'
	/[R]a :lu/	'prawn'
	/p [R] ja:vu/	'dove'

III. Occurrence of [e] : The sound [e] occurs as an allophone of /e/ in word final position. In all such cases this sound replaces the sound [c] which normally occurs in the word final position as an allophone of /e/.

Kanniyakumari Tamil		**other dialacts**	
/ėl[e]/	/el[e]/	'leaf'	
/tal [e]/	/tal [e]/	'head'	
/aṇ[e]/	/aṇ[e]/	'dam'	etc.

C. Peculiar Features–Grammatical Level: The following are the distinct grammatical [morphological] features found in Kanniyakumari Tamil speech varieties :–

1. Case Markers: In the formation of cases, seven cases viz., instrumental, sociative, dative, genitive and locative ablative and *purposive* employ distinct features when followed by noun forms.

Instrumental case: *–Koṇṭu* and *–iṭṭ* are the two markers which express instrumental case in addition to *a:le* and *e+vaccu* which are sound in most of the other dialects of Tamil.

e.g.	Katti-koṇṭu		
	Katt-iṭṭu	→ Kattiṭṭu	'with the knife'

Sociative Case : Though *–o:ṭe* and *–ku:ṭo* occur in free variation to denote the sociative case, in Kanniyakumari speech, we find several instances in which one occurring after the other to express the case form.

e.g	enno:ṭe-kuṭe	'with me'
	avano:te-ku:te	'with him'

Dative case : The markers *–il* and *–il* are also used to express the dative meaning in addition to the regular dative markers in Tamil.

e.g.	vi:ṭṭiḷ po:na:n	'[he] went to the house'
	vi:ṭṭle po:na:va	'they [hum] went to the house'.

Genitive case : There are three distinct markers in this speech variety that denote the genitive case. They are [i] – [u]kke [ii] [u]nte/-te and [iii] – a.

(i)	ona- kke	'your'
	avan-ukku	'his'
	ra:manukke	'Raman's'
(ii)	atu-nte	'its'
	en-te	'my'
	Raman-te	'Raman s'
(iii)	aval-a	'her'

Ra:man-a 'Raman's etc.

The second marker –[un] te is due to the interference of the Malayalam feature *–[n] te* in the border areas which are bilingual in nature.

In addition to this, a separate marker *-a* is found to occur in the speech behaviour of some of the social group who belong to the middle class and lower class.

e.g.	avaḷ-a	'her'
	akka:l-a	'elder sister 's'
	namml̩-a	'ours

Locative case : There is only one distinct marker viz., *– i* that occurs n this speech variety to represent the locative case.

e.g.	vi:ṭṭ- i	iṇ the house'	
	ka:ṭṭ-i	'in the forest'	
	na:ṭṭ-i	'in the country'	
	ma:ṭṭ-i	'in the cow'	etc.

Ablative case : In addition to-leruntu there are two suffixes -ieṇṭu and leṇṇu added after the noun stems [non-human]. These two are distinctly found only in the Kanniyakumari Tamil speech.

e.g.	[L]	Ka:ttu-leṇṇu	
		ka:ṭṭu-leṇṭu	'from the forest'
	[R]	cante-leuṇu	
		cante-leṇṭu	'from the weekly market'.

Purposive case : In addition to-*ukka:ke* the purposive marker, another marker viz., *-una:ke* is also found to occur in Kanniyakumari Tamil speech. This is a peculiar marker found in this dialect.

e.g.	vi:ṭṭ-una:ke	'for the house'
	man-una:ke > maṇṇune:ke	'for the land'
	maram-t-una:ke >	
	maraṭtuna:ke	'for the tree'
	ko:y: una:ke	'for the temple'

II.Tense Markers : There are some markers which are quite distinct in Kanniyakumari Tamil that denote the present, past and future tenses.

Present tense : In majority of the cases, the present tense is unmarked and it is represented as ϕ. There are two other distinct markers viz. *–K–* and *–Y–* also which denote present tense. In one or two verbs alone the marker *–r–* is found to occur in speech. However, due to inter-group interaction gradually people are making a shift to the common forms with markers *–r–* and *–kkr–*.

e.g.	paṭikk–ϕ–a:n	>	paṭikka:n	'he reads'
	paṭi-y-a:n			'he reads'
	aḷu-k-a: [l]			'she weeps'
	tiri-y-a:va			'they [hum] wander'
	col–ϕ–at-ukku	>	collatukka	'to tell'
	tin-y-a:n	>	tinya:n	'he eats'
	ke:l–ϕ–atu	>	ke:kkatu	'he who asks'
	c:t-ϕ-avon	>	o:ṭavon	"he who runs'

(The common forms are–

patikkra:n,	paṭikkra:mka,
ke:kkratu,	o:ṭravon, etc.)

Future Tense : *-kkuv-* and *-ccuv-* are the two markers distinctly found in this dialect. However, *-kkuv-* is found to occur in some of the hill dialects of Tamil. So, *-ccuv-* is the only peculiar marker exclusively found to occur in this speech.

kuṭu-couv-a: [1]	'she will give'
oti-couv-a:va	'they [hum.] will break,
paṭi-ccuva:n	'he will read'
kuṭu-kkuv-a:n	'he will give'

Past tense : In the Vilavancodu speech variety of Tamil there is a sharp deviation in the occurrence of past tense markers with regard to mens' and womens' speech.

In the womens' speech -y- denotes the past tense in y ending verb forms like *koy, ney, pey, cey*, etc.

koy-y-a:n	'he plucked'
cey-y-a:n	'he did'
ney-y-a:n	'he wove'

III Negative Markers

Negative suffix : *-g:tt-* is the marker that occurs as a peculiar features in this dialect. This is also due to the influence of the contacting language *viz.* Malayalam.

e.g	cey-a:tt-a	>	ceyya:tta	'didn't do'
	[ceyya:tta ve:le		'the work [some one did n't do]	
	paṭikka- a:tta puctakam		'the book that [someone] didn't read,.	

This is a complex verb form. The auxiliary *verb -a: nta :[n] occurs after the infinitive form of the main verbs.*

	Inf. + a:aṭa: [m]	=	Neg.	[needn't]
e.g.	vara-a:nta:[m]	>	varaṇṭa [m]	'needn't come'
	ceyya -a:nta [m]	>	ceyya:ṇt:a [m]	'needn't do'
	po: ka-a: ṇ ṭ a:[m]	>	po:ka:ṇ ṭ a :[m]	needn't go'

Past Negation : This is expressed in two ways viz. (i) Verbal participle Form + Neg. Marker

(ii) Infinitive form + Neg. Marker

VP + Ndg

vantu - illa: /-ille	>	vantilla'/e	'didn't come'
pa:ttu-illa: /-ille	>	Pa:ttilla:/-ille	'didn't see'

Inf. + Neg.

varm - elle	>	varelle	'didn't come'
pa:kka-elle	>	pa:kkelle	'didn't see'

Future Negative : It is expressed by adding the markers *-ma:ṭṭ-* and *-ma:ṇṭ-* to the infinitive forms of the verbs.

Inf.	ma:ṭṭ ma:ṇṭ	+	Pronominal termination'.

Of these *-ma:nt-* is a peculiar feature which is not found else where. This is prevalent in the Vilavancode areas.

Ceyya ma:ṇṭen	'I will not do'
Vara ma:ntes	'he will not come'
po:ma:ṇṭe	'you [Sg.] will not go'

Present Negation : *-a:n̄n̄-* is the present negation marker that is exclusively found in the Vilavancode dialect.

e.g.	var-a: n̄ n̄ a:n	'he does not come'
	naṭakk-a:n̄ n̄ a [1]	'she doesn't walk'

IV. Infinitive marker :

-cca- is the peculiar marker that is added after the strong verbs found in the Kanniyakumari Tamil dialect, especially in the Vilavancode area.

paṭi-cca	'to read'	
naṭa-cca	'to walk'	
kuṭi-cca	'to drink'	
pa:r-cca	'to see'	
eṭu-cca	'to take'	
oti-cca	'to break'	
aru-cca	'to cut'	etc.

V. Ordinal Suffix:

-a:matte is the distinct marker that is added to the cardinal numeral bases to form ordinal forms.

ordinal base + ordinal suffix -ordinal form

renṭu-a:matte	>	renṭa:mattu	'second'
na:lu-a:matte	>	na:la:matte	'fourth'
e:ḷu-a:matte	>	e:ḷa:matte	'seventh'
renṭa:matte vi:tu			'second house'
na:la:matte vi:ti			'fourth street'
e:ḷa:mate maram			'Seventh tree' etc.

VI. Adverbial suffix : In the Kanniyakumari speech variety*-a:ṭṭu* is the marker that is added to certain noun stems to form adverbs.

Noun stem	**+**	**adverbial suffix**	**= Adverbial form**
aḷaku-a:ṭṭu	>	al:aka:ṭṭu	'beautifully'
ne:ru-a:ṭṭu	>	ne:rai:ṭṭu	'straight'
ve:kam-a:ṭṭu	>	ve:kama:ṭṭu	'fast'

VII. Conditional Markers: Conditional marker that is added after the past tense forms is*-a: kki.* This is also a peculiar marker.

Conditional
form = ***Verb stem*** + ***past tense*** + ***conditional marker***

e.g	vant-a:kki	'if [one] comes'
	ceyt-a:kki	'if [one] does'
	pa:tti-ai:ki	'if [one] sees'
	paticc-a:kki	'if [one] reads'

Finite verb + conditional marker

e.g. vaṇṭa:n - enna:l
ennil if [he] comes'

eṅṅil form is due to the interference of the Malayalam feature.

VIII. Imperative [Negative] : Negative temperative is expressed by adding *-etto* to the verb stem.

Neg. Imp. = Verb stem + Neg. Imp suffix

naṭakkette	'don't walk'
ceyyette	'don't do'
pa:kkette	'don't see'
o:ṭette	'don't run' etc.

IX. Occurrence of second person singular bases :

There are two bases viz. *o-* and *no-* that occur before the dative and genitive case markers. Of these *no-* is a peculiar feature that occurs in this speech.

e.g	no-kku	'to you' [Sg.]
	no-kku	'to you' [Sg.]
	o-kke	'your'
	no-kke	'your' etc.

X. Use of Pronominal Terminations :

[Finite verb Forms]

Second Person Plural : *-eyo* is the marker that occurs exclusively in this speech variety to denote second person-plural and honorific singular when it occurs in the finite verb forms.

e.g.	n:ṇ-ke vanteyo	'you [Pl./hon. sg.] come'.
	ni:nko ceñceyo	'you [Pl/'hon. sg.] did 'etc.

Third Person Masculine Plural *-anuko* is the marker that denotes third person masculine plural.

e.g. avanuko vanta:nuko 'they [mas.] come'

Third Person Feminine Plural : *-a: luke* is the marker that denotes third person feminine Plural.

e.g a:ḷuko vanta:ḷuko ' they [fem.] came'

Third Person (Human) Plural : *-a: and -a:va* are the two distinct markers added to from finite verbs.

va-nt-a: → vanta: / vanta:va 'they [hum.] came'

a:va

avanko po:na:va

/avanko po:na: 'they [hum.] went'

The marker -a:ḷ is also added to denote either the III Pr. Hon.Sg. or plural (human) in certain cases.

e.g. avanko vanta:la: ? 'did they [hum.] come?

avanko vanta: ' they [hum.] came'.

Third Person Neuter Singular : In Tamil finite verbs end with pronominal terminations. There is concord relationship between the subject pronoun and the pronominal termination of the finite verb. But contrary to this, in the Kanniyakumari Tamil speech, we find the loss of third person neuter singular pronominal termination *-tu.*

atu vantu ' it came'

atuko vantu ' they [n. hum.] came'

atu o:ṭu ' it runs' etc.

This type of loss may be due to the interference of the Malayalam features. In Malayalam, there is no pronominal termination in the finite verb forms to denote the respective pronouns.

XI . Loss of *-kk-* in the verb stems before negative-a:-. : The regular pattern of the verb stems (strong) is to take -kk- before a vowel

beginning suffix. So, in all the dialects of Tamil we find -kk- as stem formative or explained by a morphophonemic rule.

naṭak-a:-mal	>	naṭakka:me	'without walking'
paṭik-a:-mal-e:	>	paṭikka:male:	'even without reading'

But sometimes, in the Kanniyakumari Tamil speech varieties, we come across instances in which there is no -kk-. Instead we find a glide.

naṭakka:me	>	natava:me	'without walking'
paṭikka:me	>	paṭiya:me	'without reading'

XII Use of -a: kkum in sentences:

The form *a:kkum* is used to express the meaning 'emphasis' as well as 'rejection of something also' in a type of construction as shown below. This is also based on the pattern of a Malayalam sentence.

K.Ta.	avan *a:kkum* vanta:n	' it is he who came and not anybody else'
	Malayalam	avan *a:pe* vaṇṇatu

This type of construction is not common in Tamil dialects.

XIII.. Use of Auxiliary Verbs :

Completive : *-kittu,-icci, -uṇṭu* are the forms added to the verbal participle forms of the main verbs to form completive construction.

vantu-kittu	
vant-icci	'having come' [comp.]
vant-uṇṭu	
paṭicci-kittu	
paṭice-icci	'having studied' [comp,]
paṭiṇe-uatu	

Reflexive : Reflexive is formed by adding the auxiliary verbs to the verbal participle form of the main verb.

	Ref.		
V . P. +	Aux	→	Ref. form.

In the Kanniyakumari dialact of Tamil, apart from *-kitu* there are two more auxiliary verbs-*aḷḷu* and *-kiḷu* which are added to the V.P. of the main verb.

paticci-aḷḷu-v-a:n	'he himself can study'
vantu-aḷḷu-v-a:in	'he himself can come'
eṭuttu - aḷḷa-mn:ṭṭ - a:n	'he himself cannot take'
vantu - kiḷu -v-a:[1]	'she herself can come'

XIV . Temporal Markers :

-pe [1] and -ceile are two distinct markers that denote the temporal category.

e.g.	vare -ccile	'while coming'
	varappe	
	/// pa: kkappoḷ pa:kkaccile	'while seeing'

XV. Human Plural : There are three suffixes to denote human plural that is formed by adding the suffixes to the demonstrative bases. They -are -vicciyaḷ, -viyaḷ and vamkal. Of these -vicciyal is a distinct suffix that occurs in the Kanniyakumari Tamil speech.

e.g.	a-vicciyaḷ	'they '[hum.]'
	i-vicciyaḷ	'they' [hum.]
	a - vicciyaḷ-a:	avvicciyala :'are they ?'

D. Peculiar features : lexical level

The following is the list of peculiar lexical(word) features found to occur in the Kanniyakumari Tamil speech varieties.

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/i/	
/ippem/	at this time/now
/in̄ce/	here
/ir/	sit
\i\	
/i:cci/	'fly' [N]
/i:kki/	rib of a palm leaf
/i:kkalu/	rib of a palm leaf
/i:nte/	date palm
/i:ṇṇe/	date palm
/i:ṇṇi/	date palm
\e\	
/eppem/	when
/eṭava:tu/	engagement
/etc:cam/	almost
/etuppu/	omen
/ecca:c/	spider/song of birds
/ekku/	hip
/eRacei/	meat
/eyakkam/	looseness
/ennane/	how
\ e:\	
/e:ppc/	hill
/e:ṭṭi/	a term of address

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/e:lu/	strength
/e:ntrańka:/	a kind of banana
/a/	
/appam/	at that time /then
/appacci/	grand father
/appa:vu/	father
/appiyalu/	name of a month
/atuva:ṇi/	miser
/attam/	end
/aṭiyantiram/	function [as in marriage, etc.]
/ate ma:mka:/	mango pickle [dry]
/akatte/	inside
/amma/	mother
/accen/	father
/amma:ccen/	maternal uncle
/anakkam/	sound
/anappu/	burk warm
/aṇṭi/.	nut
/aramku/	store room
/aṇṇane/	there
/aruma:ne/	knife blade fixed in a place of wood.
/alappu/	acute desire
/alpaci/	name of a Tamil month
/avattam/	danger
/apakatam/	danger
/avaya:n/	bandicoot
/ayyam/	bad

Lexical Item		*Meaning* (a)
	\a\	
/a:ttalu/		drizzling
/a:ttanka:le/		small stream
/a:cce/		day
/a:ḷce/		day
/a:ya:ri/		carpenter
	\o\	
/oppu/		sign
/otti/		mortgage
/otapporanda:/		sister
/occam/		defect
/occu/		finish/entirely
/ome/		eye lid
/omulu/		eye lid
/oṇṇi/		unite
/orumi/		unite
/or:uva:ṭu/		unite
	\o:\	
/o:m/		yes
/o:rme/		remembrance
	\u\	
/ucce/		mid day
/uccam/		height
/un̠tu/		limp
/uluppu/		shake
/uḷḷi/		onion

Lexical Item	*Meaŋing* (a)
\u:\	
/u:tta:mpeṭṭi/	balloon
/u:ttu/	a musical instrument
/u:tti/	pig
/u:ni/	a stick
/u:nu/	gum of a tooth
/u:yi/	needle
\P\	
/pinniyam/	afterwards
/inni/	afterwards
/pi:tte/	small hole
/pi:na:ti/	miser
/pi:li/	leg finger ring worn by – married ladies
/petappu/	blanket
/pe:yi/	speak
/pattam/	crowd
/pattal/	a stem out of which the central portion is extracted
/patukke/	slowly
/prume:ttam/	behaviour
/patuppara/	verandah
/pate/	foam/saliva
/patikkam/	spitoon
/paṭakku/	crackers
/paṭṭi/	dog
/padmam/	wet land
/pakaram/	instead of

Lexical Item	Meaning (a)
/pakki/	butterfly
/parumn:ttam/	conduct
/paruma:tu/	serve
/parampu/	spread/out
/paḷuppu/	pus
/paḷañci/	old cooked rice
/pavlu/	reply
/payi/	hungry
/payvu/	cow
/paye/	gum
/pa:ṯṯam/	contract of lease of paddy fields
/pa:yi/	a water plant
/potana:cce/	wednesday
/pottm/	hillock
/poṭi/	small
/poṭṭakam/	box [metal or wooden]
/pokku/	hollowness in a tree
/poli/	paddy
/poḷi/	destroy/ruin
/po:tti/	grand father
/po:ni/	metal vessel, tin, etc .
/paḷu/	shoulder
/purumam/	eye brow
/pu:ṭi/	navel
/pu:ṯṯe/	feather
/pu:cce/	cat
/pu:ḷe/	buttocks

Lexical Item	Meaning (a)
/pra:yam/	puberty
/pra:nu/	kite
/pratamam/	a sweet made of jack fruit
/t/	
/tiṭṭo/	hill
/ti:nam/	disease
/tiriyalu/	grinder
/tiḷilu/	tender leaf
/t[i]Ra:ṇi/	ability/strength
/tinakaḷa:cce/	Monday
/ti:ttu/	whitewash
/teṇku/	coconut
/teṅṅu/	coconut
/teṇṭu/	request
/te-RRu/	mistake
/tevare/	loin cloth
/te:ri/	hill
/tappitam/	mistake
/toṅkaṭṭum/	an ear ornament
/tanṭi/	bulkiness
/tañci/	bag
/tavi/	ladle
/tavappen/	father
/ta:cci/	witness
/ta:cce/	depth
/ta:kkao:lu/	key
ta:kke	key
/ta:msam/	late/delay

Lexical Item		Meaning (a)
/ta:Ra:/		duck
/tokku/		excuse
/toṇṭu/		coconut husk
/toḷo/		cattle shed
/to:ṭu/		skin of a fruit
/to:kku/		gun
/to:ye/		a rice cake
/tuṭṭi/		death
/turucam/		quickness
/tu:valu/		feather
/tra:yi/		balance
	/d/	
/da'Ra'ṭi/		a kind of insect
	/c/	
/cippar/		a measure
/ceppu/		casket/ship
/cekka:ḷi/		oil presser
/cenkaṭṭi/		part of a brick
/comma:n/		cobbler
/cenne/		cheek
/cavi/		ear
/cevva:cce/		Tuesday
/cevvane/		correctly
/ceRaku/		wing
/ceRaṭṭe/		tuft of a coconut
/catavu/		weariness
/caṭuvu/		slip
/cakke/		jack[fruit]

Lexical Item	Meaning (a)
/campa:ram/	special butter milk
/cammanti/	a relish for food
/camnncu/	angel
/camuṭṭu/	tread on
/c/	
/canko/	throat
/cantam/	beauty
/canflam/	distress
/caniya:cce/	Saturday
/caṇṭu/	chaff
/care/	flesh
/cartti/	vomit
/calam/	pus
/cavaḷu/	become bent
/ca:ṭu/	jump
/ca:ṭṭam/	jumping
//ca:mpa:n/	a Harijan man
/ca:mpava:r/	Harijans
/ca:ṇanki/	cow-dung
/ca:ru/	roof of a temporary verandah
/ca:ri/	caste
/ca:vi/	chaff
/cotti/	lameness
/cottuka:ren/	rich man
/coṭi/	redicule
/coṭakku/	knuckles
/coṭte/	small
/cone/	pregnancy of animals

Lexical Item		Meaning (a)
/coḷavu/		winnowing pan
/co:vi/		cowne
/cuṇṭu/		lip
/cu:tte/		rotton
/cuṭṭu/		a kind of torch made of palm leaves
/cu:mpu/		lean
/cla:mpu/		thin portion of wood.
	/j/	
jagnu		/chain/
	/k/	
/kiṭive/		a mat
/kiṭivu/		a mat
/kiṭuku/		braided coconut leaves
/kina:vu/		dream
kinnaram/		mockery
kiḷa:ya:m		a medicinal decoction
/keta/		cattle shed
/keḷaram/		height
/keRakku/		rotate
/katampe/		coconut husk
/katam/		debt
/katavam/		big bag
/kacc:ri/		chair
/kacce/		belt
/kakkam/		sediment in oil
/kanku/		glowing coal
/kamuku/		aroca-palm

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/kankanan/	aim
/kamru/	bend down.
/kaṇṭa:nki/	saree
/kane/	a log
/kaṇṇamme/	grand mother
/kaṇṇalu/	hut
/karavu/	door
/karukku/	tender coconut
/Kalletuppu/	funeral function
/kaḷattu/	untie
/kaḷuku/	wash
/kavṭu/	rope
/karumpi/	miser
/kayakku/	squeeze
/kayappu/	bitterness
/ka:nke/	red colour
/ka:nam/	horse-gram
/ka:Ru/	taste bitter [V]
/ka:yi/	coin
/koṭṭulu/	small hut
/keṭṭa:muli/	hammer
/keḷḷa:m/	alright
/koyvu/	mosquito
/ko:ṭṭam/	curve/defect
/ko:nam/	paddy field
/kuppi/	bottle
/kuṭṭuvam/	vessel
/kumpli/	water bubble

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/kumli/	water bubble
/kuḷucci/	woman of the kuluvar cast
/kuḷuven/	man at the kuluvar caste
/kurumpal/	immature coconut or palmyra nut
/kumiñca:n/	fragrant benzoin gum
/kuḷuco/	tablet
/kuRukku/	back of the body
/ku:ṭṭuva:n/	a curry
/ku :mpo/	heart
/krisi/	field
/krisika:ran/	farmer
/m/	
/minni/	face
/mi:ṭṭe/	bed bug
/maṭu/	mud, pond
/maṭecoile/	purse kept in a·gridle
/mampaṭṭi/	spade
/maṇṇi/	dew
/maRi/	make upside down
/maṇcam/	bed
/maci/	ink
/malattu/	open
/marutto:ni/	camphor
/ma:ṭam/	a temporary hut put especially in a paddy field.
/ma:ccal/	laziness
/ma:kkiti/	frog
/ma:kk:an/	frog

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/motam/	winnowing pan.
/mole/	bamboo
/move/	reason
/moyappu/	top
/mo:takam/	a kind of sweet eatable
/mo:tu/	roof
/mo:ṭṭippu/	theft
/mo:yanam/	theft
/mo:yram/	ring
/muṭṭa:ci/	sweet candy
/munṭu/	dhoti
/molai/	lipherin
/n/	
/nira:li/	a pond
/ni:kkampu/	cholera
/ni:nku/	move away
/nanci/	poison
/na:ḷetarici/	day after tomorrow
/na:runki/	padlock
/na:yRa:cce/	Sunday
/ na:ci/	nose
/na:viyen/	barber
/na:yi/	nasal cavity
/numpalam/	pain
nuḷḷo	pinch
/n̄/	
/n̄a:Ru/	paddy seedlings
/na:yRa:ece/	Sunday

Lexical Item		Meaning (a)
	/l/	
/leppa/		Tamil muslim community
/le:lam/		auction
/la:mi/		lid
/ra:vo/		rub
/ru:pam/		figure
	/R/	
/Ra:lu/		prawn
	/V/	
/vikkuyaven/		seller
/viri/		call
/viri/		fate
virucule		fast
/vi:Ru/		ivory
/vaṭukkam/		shyness
/velampu/		serve
/veḷḷiya:cce/		Friday
/ve:kkeri/		perspiration/excess heat
/ve:nku/		buy
/ve:ḷa:cce/		Thursday
/vaṭini:ru/		rice both
/vaṭali/		a small palmyra tree
/vaṭṭu/		tablet
/vaccu:tti/		funnel
/vaṇṇam/		bulkiness.
/varman/		malevolence
/vaḷḷam/		spider
/vale/		spiderweb

Lexical Item	*Meaning (a)*
/vaḷḷam/	boat
/vacakku/	fry/train
/va:ṭu/	belt
/va:ri/	reeper of the roof
/va:ruvalu/	broomstick
/Y/	
/ya:nam/	utensils
/ya:va:ram/	business
/ya:va:ri/	business men

E. Linguistic Study of Kanniyakumari District

Kanniyakumari district is a bilingual area natively where the regional language Tamil and former administrative language Malayalam are widely used even today. The educated population are tri and multi-lingual in the sense they know English and these two languages. The western part of Kanniyakumari district, the taluks like Vilavankode and Kalkulam consist of more Malayalam speaking trilingual population than the eastern taluks like Thovalai and Agasthiswaram.

Phonological features :

Vowels : i, i :, e, e^{i}, a, a^{i}, :, o-, o^{i}, u and u^{i}

Consonants : p, t, ṭ, [t], c, k, m, n, o, n, ṅ, l, ḷ, r, ṟ, v and y.

It is to be noted that this speech variety distinguishes /r/ flap and /ṟ/ trill which corresponds to and respectively. The /r/ (ர்) phoneme has a stop allophone [t] an alveolar stop like English /t/ sound. According to Tolkappiyam the earliest Tamil Grammar (ற்) /r/ was pronounced as a stop sound (வல்லினம்) This feature is preserved in this dialect. But the writing system in this area suffered due to this. One can notice, the name boards, at the public offices, on bus panels carry a different spelling system. /r/ and /ṟ/ are confused whille writing, even though they pronounce these two sounds and identify the difference. The children at

school should be taught properly where to use /r/ [ர்] and /r/ [ற்]. Otherwise, the errors will be alive through out one's career.

is identified as /t/

றீ ஷாப்	=	Tea shop
சாற்லீஸ்	=	Charles
றைற்றஸ்	=	Titus
லாறன்ஸ்	=	Lawrence
றைஸ்மில்	=	Rice-mill
லோறி	=	Lorry
டிறினிற்றி	=	Trinity

ர் and ற் confused and mixed together.

APPENDIX

Folklore Survey of Kanniyakumari district

Kanniyakumari, the southern most district of Tamil Nadu in India is blessed with places of legendary, historical and artistic importance. Within an area of 645 sq. miles there are more than 600 temples of which the temple of Kumari Bagavathi at Kanniyakumari, the temple of Thanumalayan at Suchindrum and Nagaraja temple at Nagercoil are considered most important among them. In addition, the temples of Subrahmanya at Veelimalai, Marungoor and Vellimalai, the Madusudana temple at Parakkai, Alagammankoil at Vadiveeswaram, the shrine of Sri Krishna at Krishnankoil, Meenakshi temple at Aralvoimozhi, Bhudalingaswamy temple at Bhoothapandi, the shrine of Bagavathi at Mandaikadu, Neelakandaswamy at Padmanabhapuram, the temple at Keralapuram, where the image Vinayaka changes its colour half-yearly, the cave temple at Chidaral and the rock-cut-cave at Thirunandikarai are also considered very important temples.

The shrine of Bagavathy at Karungal where the images of Sakthi, Vishnu and Siva holding deer and axe in His hands are enshrined together in one garbhagraha, the shrine at Thipparamalai which contains a rare image of Sri Krishna of 14 feet in height, the shrines dedicated to Avvayar, the divine poetess of Tamil Nadu and the Agasthiyar temple at Agasthiswaram are some of the less known places of worship in the district.

It is to be noted that the village called Swamitope is now considered as an important place for the Vaikundaswamy or Narayanaswamy worshippers. Nearly 150 years back, a sage by name Muthukuttiswamy was fighting against the Travancore king for the liberation of the people who were inhabited between Manakkudi and Leepuram in Nanjil Nadu area. Originally he might have come from composite Thirunelveli district (near Srivaikundam) to spread the cult of Vaishnavism as the people of that area have been suffering by the conversion of Christianity. He introduced new pattern of worship., i.e., idoless worship. He got many followers and he was worshipped by them, particularly the Hindu Nadars. After his death his graveyard has been developed as Swamitope, where festival takes place three times a year. Due to his influence most of the Hindu villages now have Narayanaswamy temples in addition to the shrines of local deities which already exist. Ampalapati, at Osaravillai is considered *pati* among many in this district. The Narayanaswamy temple

was named as *pati* invariably in all Villages, in which no idol worship is found. Instead of the sacred ashes, they use lime-sand called *na:mam* to wear on the fore head upwardly. Muthukuttiswamy prepared many doctrines called *Akilattirattu*, which was being preserved in the form of palm-leaves and read by the villagers at the time of festivals in the *patis*. Even now the practice of reading this *Akilattiraṭtu* is found and is known as *e:ṭu va: sippu*. This was published in a book form nearly 40 years ago, Muthukuttiswamy has referred the Village Manakkudi as Manavaipati and the area as *Kuruna:ḍu*.

Regarding Christianity, Kanniyakumari district is considered as one of the first places for establishing the Christianity, for which the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier at Kottar stands as an evidence from 16th century A.D. The Home Church at Nagercoil locally called *Kallukovil*, which was built in Greek style in the year 1819 is also considered one of the largest protestant churches in India and Southern Asia. Further, an old church as old as Christ in ruins is found near Azhagiyamandapam which was started by St.Thomas one of Christ's contemporary and apostle.

It is also said that the Muslim religion was established from early centuries, for which the Dharga a fine mosque at Thakkalai is considered as it is dedicated to a Muslim saint known as peer Mohamad Sahib, who was also a Tamil poet.

Though all the religions of India have thrived in this district, Hinduism is only pioneering from the early period. It is proved by Nagaraja temple at Nagercoil since it stands as an embodiment of the four creeds Saivism, Vaishnavism, Jainism and finally Buddhism. And also it is believed that the small stretch of land, Kanniyakumari district, is guarded by Parasakti in different names in the four corners of the district-as Goddess Kumari Amman *(Bhagavathyamman)* in Kanniyakumari, as Meenakshi in Aralvoimozhi, as Bhagavathy in Mandaikadu and as Mehalai in Kollankode.

Legendary importance is attached to the places named Mahendragiri, Maruthuvamalai and Thadakaimalai. Mahendragiri, a lofty peak of about 5500 feet in the western Ghats is referred to in Valmiki Ramayana as the spot from which Hanuman jumped over to Sri Lanka in search of Seeta Devi. Maruthuvamalai, the hillock of medicinal herbs is believed to have been formed by a piece of the hill Ozhathi, carried by Hanuman to Sri Lanka during the epic war between Rama and Ravana. Thadakaimalai near Bhoothapandi is considered to be the abode of Thadakai in Ramayana.

There are many historical assumptions regarding the period of Tamil poets like Agasthiyar, Tolkappiyar, Thiruvalluvar and Avvayar. The only temple of Agasthiyar is found near Kanniyakumari and in the name of Agasthiyar a village is also there as Agasthiswaram. The inauguration of Tolkappiyam, an earliest Tamil grammar was conducted by Adangotasan *(Atanko:tta:sa:n)* in his assembly. He is considered as a chieftain of Atanko:tu province and this place is now found as a small village in Kanniyakumari district. Because *a:sa:n* is a term generally refers to a person who is a master of *Cilambam* art or Jotita art or medicinal art in Kanniyakumari district. So *Atanko:tta:sa:n* might have been considered as an *A:sa:n* of *Atanko:tu*. This is supported by the existence of nearly 50 village names found ending with *ko:tu* 'maintain/bank' in this district like Kollencodu *(Kollanko:tu)*, Melangode *(me:lanko:tu)*, Thirudangode *(Thiruvita:nko:tu)* Vilavancode *(Vilavanko:tu)* etc.

There is also a belief that the birth place of Thiruvalluvar called Thirunayanar Kuricci and the death place of Avvayar near Thazhakudi are found in this district. Nanjil Nadu was once ruled by Nanjil Valluvan, whose name has been mentioned in *Purananuru* and to whom might have been related to Thiruvalluvar and the present Vilavancode might have been derived from *valluvan Ko:tu*.

Among the three Avvayars of Tamil literature the first as well as the Sangam Avvayar was believed to have Nanjil Nadu as her native place. There are three shrines for Avvayar in the northern part of Nanjil Nadu. The first one is found in Kurattiyarai *(Kurattiyarai)* near Azhagiapandiapuram, the second one is near Thazhakudi, which is referred to as the graveyard of Avvayar surrounded by *Naval* tress and *Vanna:n pa: rai (Washerman rock)*, and the third one is at Muppandal. There is a version that the place called Muppandal was founded only because of Avvayar, when she wanted to compromise the grievances among the three rulers viz., Chera, Chola and Pandya towards Atiyaman, a chieftain she arranged a meeting of the three in that place for negotiations where they constructed three pandals. The meeting place of the three kings was later called Muppandal. Even now one can see the three pandals *(matams)* and a shrine of Avvayar. *Avvai Viratam* is strictly followed by the women of this area wherever the shrine is situated and they offer *ku: lu* (rice- broth) and *Kolukkattai* (a sweet boiled rice cake) every Tuesday in the month of *Adi* (July-August).

The only river Palayaru of this district is also having a predictable version. Up to 1745 A.D. this river was mentioned as Paraliyaru *(Paraḷiyaa:ru)*. So any one can easily predict that this may be Pahruliyaru *(Pahrul iya::ru)*, which is mentioned in Tamil literature as having been once the southern boundary of the Tamil land, and afterwards submerged in the Indian ocean.

However it is proved that the three Tamil kings Chera, Chola and Pandiya were having close contact with this district for the past 2000 years. The villages viz, Keralapuram, Cholapuram and Azhagiapandiapuram stand as evidences for their contacts.

Avvayar said that no one should live in a village where there is no temple, likewise one can say that there is no village without palm leaves literature in this district. Most of the available palm leaves literature contain the folk stories regarding local deities such as Iyakkiyamman, Mutharamman, Sasta, Pulankondalamman, Sudalaimadan, Mannar raja etc. In some of the literature we find mention about some historical events like Venkalarajan katai, Thambimar katai, Muthupattan katai etc. And also each and every village has many local deities for which they have separate folk stories. Most of the folk stories about the local deities are sung as *Villuppa:ṭṭ* and *Kaniyanpa:ṭṭu* in many villages of this area.

Though many folk stories are in practice, now the story of Iyakkiyamman is very common among many people, which is popularly known as *Niilikatai*. If one wants to trace out the origin of Niili, he has to link the shrines of Niili *(Iyakki)* from Pazhavoor, Muppandal, Sitappal, Kaliyankadu, Manikattipottal etc. It is said that once upon a time there was a path for transportation through these villages. As the Iyakki shrine was constructed by the side of the path, the above mentioned shrines are situated and given importance. Among many Puppandal Iyakki is believed as very powerful. So all the vehicles coming from Nagercoil and going to Nagercoil via. Muppandal are stopped for a while for paying offerings by the travellers through that path. The story of Niili is as follows as it is used in *Villuppa:ṭṭu:*

பார்புகழும் பழவூராம் பண்புடைய பேரூராம்
சீர்நிறைந்த திருவூராம் தென்திசையில் ஒரூராம்
அப்பெரிய பதிதனிலே அம்மையப்பர் கோவிலிலே
ஆடிவரும் பாடிவரும் அழகுடைய தாசியவள்
கண்டாரை மயக்கிடுமாம் கட்டழகு தாசியவள்
கண்ணசைந்த வேளையிலே பையசைந்து ஓடிடுமாம்
அப்பெரிய கோவிலிலே அம்மையப்பர் கோவிலிலே
பூசைசெய்யும் சிவபஸ்பான் புத்திரரே இல்லாமல்
அம்மையப்பர் திருவருளால் ஆண்மகனைப் பெற்றெடுத்தாள்
பெற்றெடுத்த மகனுக்குத்தான் வேலனென்று பேருமிட்டாள்
பெற்ற அந்தப் பிள்ளையுமே வளர்ந்து அங்கே வருகுதங்கே
இப்படியே நாட்கள் செல்ல ஏதுசெய்தான் பாப்பாவை
தன்னுடைய மகனைத்தான் அம்மையப்பர் கோவிலிலே
பூசை செய்து வாயென்று வேலனிடம் சொல்லிவந்தான்
வேலனவன் பூசை செய்து விரைவுடனே இருக்கையிலே
ஆடிவரும் பாடிவரும் அழகுடைய தாசியைத்தான்
தாசியைத்தான் கண்டிடுவான் கட்டழகு வேலனவன்
கண்டானே வேலனவன் அந்த நல்ல வேளையிலே தாசிதன்னைக்
கண்டவுடன் பேரானந்தம் கொண்டிடுவான்
தாசியும் வேலனும்தான் இவர்கள் ரெண்டுபேர்களுமே
அன்புடனே பழகிவந்தார்.
கையிலுள்ள பொருளையெல்லாம் தாசியிடம் கொட்டிவந்தான்
கையிலிப்பம் காசுமில்லை வேலனவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்
தாசியவள் வீடதிலே அடைக்கலம்தான் புகுந்துவந்தான்
கையிலொரு காசுமில்லை கடன்தருவார் யாருமில்லை
இப்படியே இருக்கும் நாளில் வேலனவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்
தாசியுடன் தாயுமே வேலனைத்தான் அழைத்திடுவாள்
கையிலொரு காசுமில்லை உன்னிடத்தில் இப்போது
இங்குதானும் இருக்கவேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னாள் தாசியவள்
இத்தனையும் கேட்ட அந்த வேலனவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்
தாசியவள் வீட்டை விட்டு வெளியேறிச் சென்றிடுவான்
பழகைநல்லூர் காடைவிட்டு வாறானே வேலனவன்
பழகைநல்லூர் காடதிலே கருவேலமூடதிலே
கருவேல மூடதிலே வந்தமர்ந்தான் வேலனவன்

தன்னுடைய கணவனைத்தான் காணாமல் ஏதுசெய்வாள்
தாசியவள் அப்போது பழகைநல்லூர் காடை நோக்கி
கணவனைத்தான் தேடியங்கே வதைவதைக்க ஓடிவந்தாள்
காட்டிலே இருக்கும்போது வேலனைத்தான் கண்டிடுவான்
கண்டாளே தாசியவள் கட்டழகு தாசியவள்
நம்முடைய வீட்டிற்குத்தான் சென்றிடுவோம் என்று சொன்னாள்
இத்தனையும் கேட்ட அந்த வேலனவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்
அந்த நல்ல வேளையிலே போகவேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லி
சிறிது நேரம் கழிந்து அங்கே போயிடலாம் என்று சொன்னான்
இத்தனையும் கேட்ட அந்த தாசியவள் ஏதுசெய்தாள்
வேலனவன் மடிமீது தலைவைத்துப் படுத்திடுவாள்
தாசியவள் கழுத்தினிலே நகைகளெல்லாம் ரெம்பஉண்டு
இந்தநல்ல நகைகளெல்லாம் நாமெடுத்துச் செல்ல வேண்டும்
என்று அந்த வேலனவன் நினைத்திடுவான் அப்போது
மடியிலுள்ள தலைதனினயே மணல்மேலே தானும் வைத்தான்
பாராங்கல்லைக் கொண்டுவந்து தாசியவள்
தலையில் போட்டான்
போட்டவுடன் தாசியவள் புழுவாகத் துடித்திடுவாள்.

ஏ !! குற்றமொன்றும் செய்யவில்லை ... நீ
என்தலையில் கல்லைப் போட்டாய்
ஏ !! மாபாவி மாபாவி ... உனக்கு
என்ன குற்றம் செய்து வந்தேன்

வீட்டிற்கு அழைக்கல்லவா உன்னை வேகமாக அழைக்க வந்தேன்

இப்படியே தாசியவள் அங்கே ஏதேதோ சொல்லிடுவாள்
பக்கத்திலே நின்ற நல்ல கள்ளியைத்தான் பார்த்திடுவாள்
பக்கத்திலே நின்ற கள்ளி நீயே சாட்சி என்றாள்
கருவேல மூடதையும் நீயே சாட்சி என்றாள்
என்று சொல்லி தாசியவள் அப்போது உயிரைவிட்டாள்.
கழுத்திலுள்ள நகைகளெல்லாம் கழத்தி அங்கே வேலனவன்
துணி முடிச்சைக் கட்டிக்கொண்டு விரைவாக நடந்திடுவான்
தண்ணீர்தான் குடிப்பதற்கு அங்கு வேலனவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்

பாழடைந்த கிணற்றைத்தான் அங்கே கண்டானே வேலனவன்
பாழடைந்த கிணற்றிலே சற்று வெள்ளந்தன்னைக் கண்டிடுவான்
நகைகளெல்லாம் கையில் கொண்டு
பாழடைந்த கிணத்துக்குள்ளே இறங்கிடுவான் வேலனவன்
பாழடைந்த கிணற்றிலே - கிணற்றிலே
ஒரு நாகமது வந்திடுமாம் - வந்திடுமாம்
வேலனைத்தான் தீண்டிடுமாம். அப்போது வேலனவன்
புழுவாகத் துடித்தானே அந்தப்பாழடைந்த கிணத்துக்குள்ளே
கிணற்றினிலே வேலனும் அங்கே தன்னுயிரை மாய்த்திடுவான்
அக்காளைக் காணாமல் வாறானே தம்பியவன்
தாசியவள் தம்பியவன் பழவூரு காட்டுக்குள்ளே
போனநல்ல அக்காளை காணவில்லை என்றுசொல்லி
வாறானே தம்பியவன்
அக்காளின் கோரமான உடலை அங்கு கண்டு
அப்போ, பதைபதைத்து ஏதுசெய்வான்
தன்னுடைய நாவதையும் தான் பிடிங்கிச் செத்திடுவான்.

Thus the first portion of the story ends. The three souls went to the abode of Lord Siva and the soul of Dasi requested Siva for taking revenge on her lover Velan. Lord Siva gave her boon as per her request. In the next birth Velan was born as an son of Chettiar at Kavirippoompattinam. Once his father invited an astrologer for foreseeing his future. Then,

அந்த சோசியனும் ஏதுசொன்னான்
இவன் தென்திசைதான் போகவேண்டாம்
ஒரு ஆபத்தொன்று இருக்குதய்யா
என்று சொல்லி சோசியனும்
ஒரு மந்திரக்கம்பைக் கொண்டு
மந்திரக்கம்பு ஒன்று - கம்பு ஒன்று
வேலனிடம்தான் கொடுத்தான் - தான் கொடுத்தான்
இவ்வாறு இருக்கும்போது - ஏதேது நடக்குதய்யா

வியாபாரம் செய்யும்போது - செய்யும்போது
எங்கெங்கு சென்றாலும் யாவாரம் பெருகவில்லை
தென்திசைதான் போவாமென்று - போவோமென்று
வாறானே செட்டியவன் - செட்டியவன்
பாதையங்கே தவறியவன் பழவூரு தான் வாறான்
பழவூரு காடதிலே வாறானே செட்டியவன்
அவன் பதை பதைக்க வரும்போது - வரும்போது
சேலை நல்ல உடையழகி - உடையழகி
செந்தூரப் பொட்டழகி நல்லபார் போற்றும் சொல்ழகி
வேலைப்போன்ற கண்ணழகி - இந்த நல்ல அழகோடு
நின்றிடுவான் இசக்கியம்மன்
செட்டிதன்னைக் கண்டபோது அங்கே இசக்கியம்மன் ஏதுசெய்தாள்
பக்கத்திலே நின்ற நல்லகள்ளியைத்தான் உற்றுப் பார்த்தாள்
கள்ளியையும் தான் முறித்து - தான் முறித்து
ஒரு கைப்பிள்ளையாய் ஆக்கிக்கொண்டு - ஆக்கிக்கொண்டு
வேலனின் எதிலே சென்று வேலவனை வரவேற்றாள்
வாருமய்யா செட்டியாரே - செட்டியாரே
வாத்தை ஒன்று சொல்லைக் கேளும்
வெற்றிலைதான் போடுதற்குக் கொஞ்சம் சுண்ணாம்பு வேண்டுமென்றாள்
அப்போது செட்டியவன் சுண்ணாம்பு கொடுக்கும்போது
பாக்கு கொஞ்சம் வேணுமென்றாள் -
இப்படியே கேட்கும்போது செட்டியவன் ஏதுசெய்தான்
இவளிடத்தில் இப்போது இருக்கவேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லி
கொண்டுவந்த பொருளையெல்லாம் தலையிலன்கே எடுத்துக் கொண்டான்
பார்த்தாளே இசக்கியம்மன் இந்தச் செட்டி தன்னை விட வேண்டாம்
கையிலுள்ள பிள்ளைதன்னை - பிள்ளை தன்னை அங்கே அவள் இறக்கிவிட்டாள்
பிள்ளை அங்கே ஓடோடிச் செல்லுதய்யா - அப்போது
அப்பா அப்பா என்று சொல்லி - என்று சொல்லிச் செட்டிதன்னைப் பிடித்திடுமாம்

யாருபெற்ற பிள்ளையிவள் - என்னை வந்து அப்பா என்று
அப்பாயென்று அழைக்குதய்யா - அழைக்குதய்யா
என்று செல்லிச் செட்டியவன் பிள்ளையைத்
தான் கூப்பிடென்றான்
அப்போது இசக்கியவள் - கோரமாகச் சிரித்துக்கொண்டு
என்னுடைய கணவரே நீ - கணவரே நீ
என்னை விட்டு செல்ல வேண்டாம்
இவர்கள்தான் ரெண்டு பேரும் - ரெண்டு பேரும்
தற்கம் அங்கே போடயிலே - போடயிலே
பழவூரு ஊருக்குள்ளே பஞ்சாயத்தைக் கூட்டினல்லோ
நம்ம நல்ல இருவருடைய கதையைத்தான் சொல்வோமென்று
செட்டிதன்னை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு வாறாளே நீலியவள்
பழகை நல்லூர் ஊரதிலே வந்து நின்றாள் இசக்கியம்மன்
ஊரெல்லாம் ஒன்றுகூட்டி - ஒன்று கூட்டி
இசக்கியம்மன் ஏது சொல்வாள்
என்னுடைய கணவரய்யா - என்னைவிட்டுச் சென்றுவிட்டார்
இவருக்குப் பிறந்த நல்ல ... குழந்தையைத்தான் பாருமய்யா
எங்களைத்தான் இப்போது - இப்போது
விட்டுவிட்டுச் செல்லப் போறார்
ஊராரே பாருமய்யா எங்கள் குறையதைத்தான் தீருமய்யா
என்று சொன்னாள் இசக்கியம்மன் - அப்போது
ஊரார்கள் செட்டி தன்னைப் பார்த்து அங்கே
கணவன் நல்ல மனைவியுமே - மனைவியுமே
சண்டை நீங்கள் போடவேண்டாம்
ரெண்டு பேருக்கும் ஒரு வீடுதன்னைத் தாம் கொடுத்து
ரெண்டு பேரையும் ஊரார்கள் வைத்திடுவார்
இவர்கள் என்ன என்ன சொல்வாரென்று
ஊரார்கள் கேட்டிடுவார்
பூட்டியுள்ள கதவு தன்னில் - கதவு தன்னில்
காதுவைத்துக் கேட்கின்றார்கள்
அப்போது தாசியவள் இங்கே வீட்டினுள்ளே ஏது செய்தாள்
தொட்டிலொன்றைத் தானும்கட்டி - தானும்கட்டி
பிள்ளையைத்தான் தானுமிட்டுத் தாலாட்டுப் பாடுகின்றாள்
என்று பார்த்தால்
அவள் எப்படித்தான் தாலாட்டுப் பாடுகின்றாள்
கானாங்கரையிலே கட்டான தரையிதிலே

கணுக்கணுவாய் தழுப்பவனும் - தழுப்பவனும்
வெட்டவெட்ட தழுப்பவனும் வேலிகட்டிக் காப்பவனும்
உச்சியிலே பூத்தவனும் உள்ளமெல்லாம் பால்வடிய
பால்போல் நிலவடிக்க பார்வதியாள் பந்தடிக்க
பார்வதியாள் அடிக்கும்பந்தை பறந்தடிக்க வந்தவனும்
ஈஸ்வரனார் அடிக்கும் பந்தை பிள்ளை எடுத்தடிக்க வந்தவனும்
என்று சொல்லித் தாசியவள் தாலாட்டுப் பாடுகின்றாள்.
பார்த்தாரே ஊரவர்கள் - இவர்கள் கணவனுமே மனைவியென்று
இவர்கள் ரெண்டுபேரும் வீட்டிலேதான் இருக்கச் சொல்லி போய்விட்டார்கள்
அர்த்தராத்திரி வேளையில் அழகான சாமத்திலே
அயர்ந்து அங்கே செட்டியவன் தூங்கும்போது
மூதேவி மந்திரத்தைச் செட்டி மேலே ஓதிடுவாள் - ஏவிடுவாள்
அப்போது செட்டியவன் கண்ணயர்ந்து தூங்கிடுவான்
பார்த்தாளே இசக்கியம்மன் பாய்ந்தாளே செட்டி மேலே
அவனது மார்பதைத்தான் பிடுங்கி மாலையாகத் தானும் போட்டாள்
கையதிலே சிறுகுடலை அம்மைக்கட்டியாக எடுத்துக் கொண்டாள்
வாயிலே ஊன்வடிய பார்த்தாளே இசக்கியம்மன்
பிள்ளைதன்னை தானெடுத்துக் கள்ளிக் கொப்பாய் தானும் மாற்றி
அந்த வேலன் மேலே மேலே ஊன்றிக் கொண்டு
வெளியில் பாய்ந்தாள் இசக்கியம்மன்
பழவூரு ஊரதையும் - அவள்
சுற்றிசுற்றித்தான் வாறாள் - அவள்
ஆங்காரக் குலவையிட்டாள் - அய்யா
ஓங்காரக் குலவையிட்டாள்
பார்த்தாரே ஊரவர்கள் இது என்ன மாயம் என்று சொல்லி
சோசியரை வரவழைத்துச் சொற்பொருத்தம் கேட்டபோது
அந்தச் சோசியனும் ஏது சொல்வான்
பழவூரு காட்டிலுள்ள இசக்கியம்மன் வந்திருக்காள்
இந்த நல்ல அம்மனுக்கு அழகான கோயில்கட்டி
குடியிருத்த வேண்டுமென்றான் .....

In the first part of this story a brahmin and a Devadasi are invloved and in the second part a chettiyar (merchant) is involved. The story mainly is concerned with the revenge taken by a woman who was cheated by his lover (husband). As the chettiyar community believes that they have migrated from Kaviripoompattinam, the Kannagi story and the cheating habit of men might also have become the root cause for this story. This is eventually proved in another story of Niili called Keelankottu Iyakki. The story of this Iyakki is somewhat different from the above one, but the theme is the same as this also shows the vengeance taken by a virgin to kill the enemy. In addition to this story there are many verbal stories in order to explicit the terrorism of this Iyakki deity throughout this district.

Riddles : Though there are many kinds of riddles in practice, some of them seem to be more interesting and show some historical evidences.

1. சங்கை பெறும் மலையாளத் தேசத்தில்
தமிழ்ப் பாண்டியன் ஒருவனும்
தக்கதோர் கடற்கரையில் வாழும் அரசர்களில் ஒருவனும்
இவர்கள் தயவாக வாழுகின்ற நாளில்
இங்கே மலையாளத் தேசத்தில்
ஒருவனை ஆறு மூன்றாக வெட்டி
அடுத்தவனை இருபிளப்பாய் பிளந்து
அரசனை முதுகிலேற்றிச்
சிங்காரமாகவே கோட்டைவாசல் கொண்டு சென்று
அங்கே சிங்கங்கள் போலவே பலபேர் கூடிச்
சீறி சினந்து வெட்டிப்பங்கப் படுகிற வேளையில்
பாண்டியன் பார்பார் என்று பகரவே
இவர்களோடு சேர்ந்து படுகளச் சோரைபாய
மாண்டதோ நாலுபேர்
மூன்றுபேரைக் கண்டேன் ஒருவனைக் காணவில்லை.

This riddle describes the combination of betal-leaf, betal-nut, lime and tobacco when they chew them. In this the method of chewing betal leaf has been described critically.

2. *செங்கை நதிபுனல் மூழ்கி கரையேறிவந்து*
கதிரவனைக் கண்டு உடல் காய்ந்து
பொங்குங்கடல் நீர் உண்டு ரிஷபமேறி
பூலோகம் காக்கவருவது சிவனுமல்ல
இங்கிதனை அறிந்து சொல்லும் பெரியோர் தம்மை
எப்போதும் குருவென்று வணங்கலாமே

The answer for this riddle is dried-fish. From this riddle we come to know that the dried-fish was transported by using buffalos from one place to another which is mentioned here as *rissabam e:ri*. And also driedfish was considered as an important food among people during those times.

தட்டினால் விளக்கேற்றும்
தவறினால் வைகுண்டம் ஏற்றும்

This riddle is used for denoting electricity, which is considered as a new invention.

Proverbs : Among many proverbs in Tamil, some of them are predominantly used by the people of Kanniyakumari district. For example,

1. *வேலிக்கு ஓணான் சாட்சி*
2. *நுங்கு தின்னவன் ஓடிட்டான்*
கந்தல் நக்கினவன் மாட்டிகிட்டான்
3. *பஞ்சி நூப்பது மாதிரி நூக்காதே*
4. *பேச்சிலே ஏசு மூச்சிலே காசு*
5. *பங்களாவைச் சுத்தினவன் பரதேசியானான்*
6. *ஒரு மூட்டெலும்புக்காக நாயாக மாறாதே*
7. *குருவியிருக்கப் பனம்பழம் விழுந்த மாதிரி*
8. *நரிக்கு இடம் கொடுத்தால் கிடைக்கு*
ரெண்டு ஆட்டைப் பிடிக்கும்
9. *தெய்வத்தின் தூய்மை நறுநெய் பட்டபாடு*
10. *மச்சம் பிடிப்பவனுக்கு மிச்சமில்லை*

Fake-Story : Like riddles there are many fake stories used among the people when they want to spend their leisure time happily. The fake story will not be carrying any meaning, but it gives some kind of literary pleasure. For example,

1. முள்ளு முனையில் மூணுகுளம் வெட்டி
   ரெண்டு குளம் பாழ் ஒரு குளம் தண்ணியே இல்லை
   தண்ணியில்லா குளத்திலே வனஞ்ச பானை மூணு
   இரண்டு பானை பச்சை, ஒரு பானை வேகல்ல
   வேகாத பானையில் போட்ட அரிசி மூணு
   இரண்டு அரிசிபச்சை ஒரு அரிசி வேகல்ல
   வேகாத அரிசிக்கு வந்த விருந்து மூணு
   இரண்டு பேர் பட்னி, ஒருவர் சாப்பிடல்ல
   சாப்பிடாதவர்க்கு குடுத்த பணம் மூணு
   இரண்டு பணம் செம்பு, ஒரு பணம் அளியாதது
   அளியாத பணத்திற்குப் பிடித்த எருமை மூணு
   ரென்டெருமை மலடு ஒண்ணு ஈனாதது

This is used among the Hindu Nadars of Nanjilnadu. Though it does not give any literary meaning, one can assume that it might have beeh reflecting the pitiable condition of Nadars when they did not get any wages for digging the tanks in Nanjilnadu from the Travancore government when the Pattaneru channel was constructed in the year 1745.

2. உலகம் அறியாத ஆண்டு, ஒருவரும் காணாத மாதம்
   ஒருநாளும் இல்லாத தேதி, ஊரில்லாத ஊரில் இருக்கும்
   தலைசாய்ந்த தண்டாவர முதலியார் குமாரன்
   சரிப்படாத ஊரில் இருக்கும்
   பித்தம்பிடிச்ச பேயாண்டி செட்டியார் குமாரன்
   பேரில்லாதவன் பெரட்டி எழுதிக் கொடுத்த
   குதுவை இல்லாத கடப்பத்திரமாவது
   இப்பணம் என்னுடைய வீட்டிற்கும் கெளுக்கு
   அவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கும் மேற்கு
   இவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கும் தெற்கு

அவளுடைய வீட்டிற்கு வடக்கு
இந்த நாற்பக்க எல்லைக்கு உட்பட்ட
ஜென்ன பட்டணம் இல்லாமணி
தம்மிடி ரூபாய் ஐநூறுக்கும் ஒன்னுக்கு எட்டும்
தாங்கள் வேண்டாதபோது
அவர்கொடுக்காமப் போகக் கடனாகவும்
அப்படிக்கு ஒரு சமயம் கொடுக்கும் படி
அப்பியந்தப்பட்டால், தங்கள் எந்தக் கோட்டிலாவது போட்டு
கோட்டுச் செலவு அசல் பூஜ்யமாகப் போகக் கடனாகவும்
இப்படிக்கு என்னுடைய மனோராஜிக்கு
சம்மதிச்சி எழுதிக்கொடுத்த வாக்குத் தத்தப்
பத்திரமாவது, இதற்குச் சாட்சி இவனோ இவளோ ?

This fake-story is used among the Chettiar community of Kanniyakumari district. It is evident that this story reflects the money lending habit of Chettiars and the disappointment when they are not able to collect from the recipient.

REFERENCES

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2. *Ibid p.* 5

3. The Regulations and Proclamations of Travancore, Vol. VI. 1100-1105 ME (1930)

4. *தமிழ் வில்லுப்பாட்டுகள்*

   (Tamil Villu-p-pattugal) by T.C. Gomathinayagam, Tamil Pathippagam, Madras, (1979) p.4

5. புழற் கோட்டுத் தொடுத்த மரற்புரி நரம்பின் வில் யாழிசைக்கும் விவரலெறி குறிஞ்சி.

   Kadiyalur Uruthiran Kannanar in *Perumpanatruppadai* ; lines 180-182. New Century Book House (P.) Ltd. (1981), p.51.

6. S. Padmanabhan, *'The Musical bow ... fkexible enough'* - Express Weekend, 30th July, 1989.

7. *'From Kalari to Karata and Kungfu'* Express Weekend, 15th July, 1989.

8. Please see the chapter on "Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations".

CHAPTER – 4

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

PART I - AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is, and always has been, an activity involving a close interaction with the environment. Soil, climate, topographic, hydrological and biological conditions together, exert a major control upon farming operations and profitability of Agriculture.[1]

Land Reclamation : Due to population growth, the original forest has been largely denuded or seriously degraded by long continued excessive and unwise use. Even where the need for fuel and construction material can be met from more distant forests, it comes at last to be realized that the destruction of forests cover is liable to cause disastrous landslips and soil erosion, particularly on sloping ground. This leads to the undertaking of reclamation work.[2]

In Kanniyakumari, the soil is mostly loamy and assumes sandy or clayey character depending on the accumulations of wash on the surface. The depth of the soils varies widely. In valleys and low lying areas where the wash from the surrounding hills accumulate, the soil is fairly deep and such places often support vegetation. On the hill slopes and elevated grounds which are subject to heavy wash, the soil has a characteristic yellow or reddish yellow colour. On the tops and higher slopes of hills where the wash is excessive, the ground is rocky and soil shallow and hard.[3]

Land Utilisation : Land classification in its essentials simply means giving various distinctive classes of soils by suitable names and descriptions.

The Land classification in the Kanniyakumari district is as follows :–[4]

1.	**Total Geographical area –**		**(in Hectares)**
	(a) By Professional survey	:	167267
	(b) By Village papers	:	167267
2.	Forests	:	54453

3.	Barren and uncultivable lands	:	4198/4123[5]
4.	Lands put to non - agricultural uses	:	23827
5.	Cultivable waste	:	143
6.	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	:	102
7.	Lands under miscellaneous trees and groves not included in the net area	:	230
8.	Current fallows	:	2037
9.	Other fallow lands.	:	1439
10.	Net area sown	:	80802
11.	Area sown more than once	:	18263
12.	Total cropped area	:	99

Classification of area under different categories [6] **:** Comparative statement on the percentage to the total area of the Kanniyakumari district and Tamil Nadu for the year 1983-84.

	Classification of area	*Kanniya-kumari*	*Tamil Nadu*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*
1.	Forest	32.6	15.6
2.	Barren and uncultivable land	2.5	4.5
3.	Land put to non-agricultural use	14.2	13.8
4.	Cultivable waste	0.1	2.4
5.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	0.1	1.2
6.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown	0.1	1.4
7.	Current fallow lands	1.2	11.9
8.	Other fallow lands	0.8	4.2
9.	Net area sown	48.3	45.0

Soil Erosion : Soil deterioration arises in two ways i.e. by soil exhaustion and soil erosion. The control of both is known as soil conservation. Soil exhaustion is generally caused by overcropping of

land. By rotation of crops and by appropriate manuring of soil, exhaustion can be postponed for a long time.

It also involves dislodging of the soil particles from the bed and the transportation from one place to another due to the action of wind or water in motion. Due to the destruction of forests and unscientific cultural practices, the acceleration of erosion is triggered.

Need for Soil Conservation[7] : The Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute has reckoned that the average annual soil losses vary from 2.4 tonnes to 112.50 tonnes per hectare depending on the land use pattern. Further, the effect of such erosion can be seen from the premature siltation of the reservoirs. Soil conservation practices are both biological and mechanical.

The soil conservation measures are probably better known than the causes and characteristics of erosion. The most spectacular example of soil conservation measure that has been followed in India since time immemorial is terracing (generally bench terrace type) which is formed in almost all the villages.[8]

The severe erosion of soil, particularly in hilly, undulating tracts, is responsible for the loss of fertile top soil.Contour bunding and terrace cultivation are necessary for the reclamation of undulating eroded land.[9]

The soil conservation work undertaken by the Agricultural Engineering Department in Kanniyakumari district is as follows:–

The mechanical sub-division at Tirunelveli caters to the needs of the farmers in Kanniyakumari district. This department is looking after the land development, minor irrigation and soil and water conservation. The mechanical sub division also provides technical guidance and required agricultural machineries to the needy farmers. There is permanent soil sub division functioning at Nagercoil. Since this district mainly comprises of hilly region, only contour stone wall works are executed under watershed management to conserve, manage and develop soil and water resources to promote dryland in this district.

Details of Conservation work done from 1980-81 to 1985-86 are as follows[10] :–

Year of execution (1)	*Area covered (in hectare)* (2)	*Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)* (3)
1980 –81	504	8.54
1981-82	478	9.18
1982-83	360	8.49
1983-84	541	13.59
1984-85	750	14.44
1985-86	760	17.14

In Kanniyakumari district cover crop with Pueraria Javanica is raised as biological conservation practice in rubber plantations, and contour stone walls are constructed under mechanical conservation method since the majority of the area is under the slope group of 10 to 60 per cent. The execution of contour stone walls are done on watershed basin from ridge to valley.[11]

Kanniyakumari district is divided into 3 major river basins viz., Thamparavarani, Pazhayar and Valliyar river basins.These watersheds are further classified into sub watersheds and micro watersheds.

Contour stone walls are constructed with the locally available stones or stones removed from the fields. The cost of construction of contour stone walls varies from Rs.6000/- to Rs.10,000/- based on the slopes and availability of stones at site. The Government of Tamil Nadu have fixed the unit cost as Rs.6,500/- per ha. marginal contribution.

A gross subsidy of 40 per cent on the expenditure (Cost of works + 25 per cent of cost of works) is allowed to the farmers and the balance is recovered in ten equal instalments after two years of completion of the works with the interest of 12 per cent per annum from them. The total area covered with soil conservation measures from the inception, of the scheme (i.e. from 1964 to date) is 4466 hectares in the district and a sum

of Rs.99 lakhs was spent. The Government have granted an additional 10 per cent subsidy to SC/ST farmers under the scheme from 1985 - 86.

Yield estimate with and without Soil Conservation in Rubber Plantation:—

Yield/Kg.ha.

Year (1)	*With Project (2)*	*Without Project (3)*	*Net Yield (4)*
0 (at start)	900	900	0
I	970	880	90
II	1030	860	170
III	1070	840	230
IV	1110	810	300
V	1140	780	360
VI	1140	750	390

Climate [12] : The district has a favourable agro-climatic condition, which is suitable for growing a number of crops. The proximity to equator, its topography and other climate factors favour the growth of varied crops.

The agro-climatic conditions prevailing in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks are different from what is prevailing in Thovalai and Agasthiswaram taluks as is evidenced from the typical example noted hereunder, the paddy varieties grown in the second crop season in Thovalai and Agasthiswaram taluks are grown during the first crop season in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. This shows that there is distinct variation in the climatic conditions prevailing within the district.

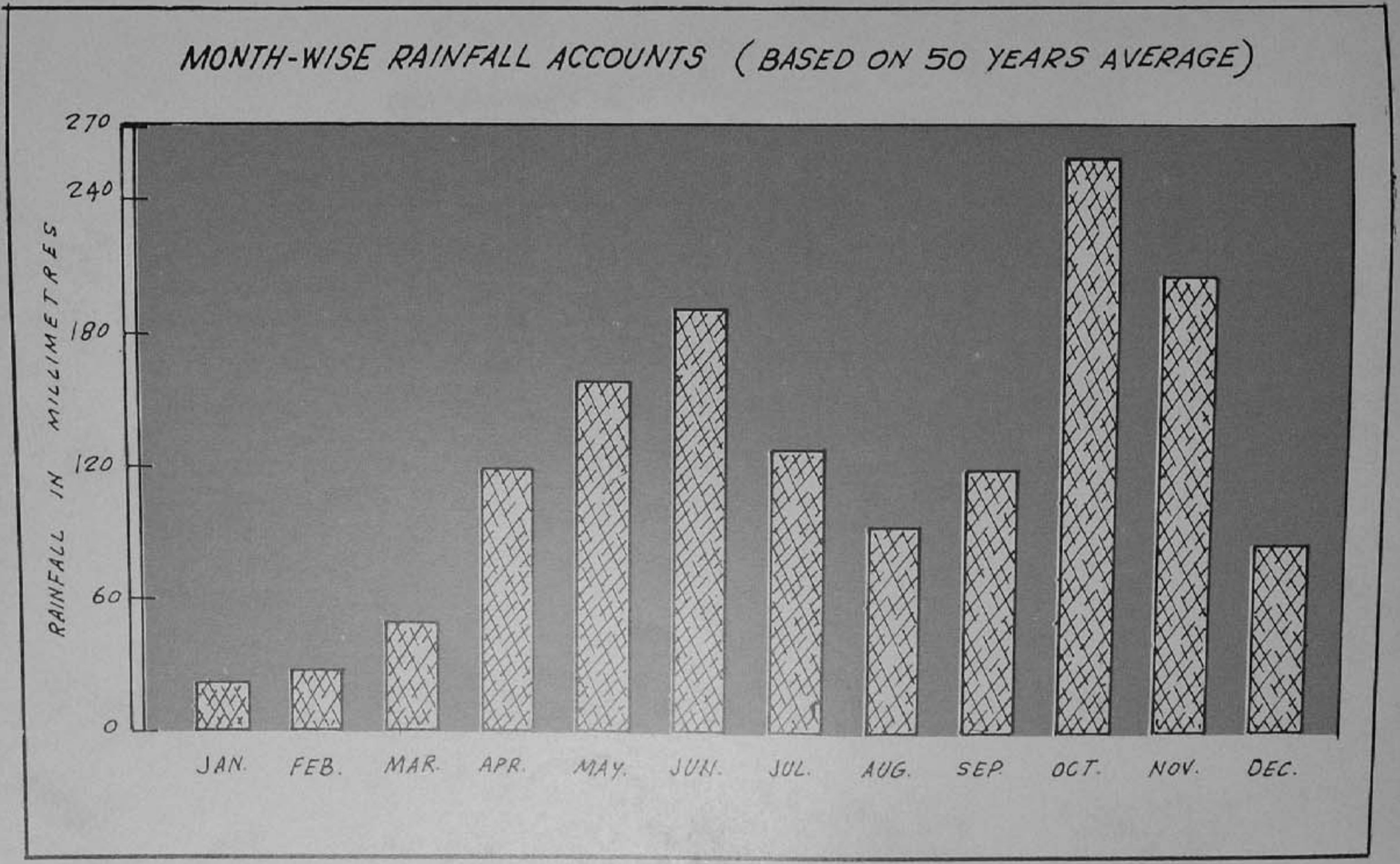
Monsoons : Unlike other districts in Tamil Nadu, the district has a unique advantage of rainfall both during the south west and north east monsoons. The South west monsoon period starts from the month of June and ends in September, while the north east monsoon period starts from October and ends in the middle of December. The rainfall is generally very high in the northern parts of the district and considerably low in the southern parts of the district. The average rainfall of the district is 1465 mm. and this is based on average rainfall for the past 50 years as detailed below :–

Statement showing the rainfall in m.m. for Kanniyakumari district for the years 1957-58 to 1987-88

Sl. No. (1)	Year (2)	June (3)	July (4)	Aug. (5)	Sept. (6)	Oct. (7)	Nov. (8)	Dec. (9)	Jan. (10)	Feb. (11)	March (12)	April (13)	May (14)	Total (15)
1	1957-58	337.3	113.5	28.5	19.6	208.2	224.0	67.1	3.2	77.6	63.0	151.9	208.6	1497.5
2	1958-59	257.4	112.1	134.8	7.8	102.5	204.3	5.5	5.4	33.2	0.7	143.0	337.0	1343.7
3	1959-60	213.9	334.1	68.4	105.0	124.6	135.1	28.6	7.7	12.9	45.8	99.1	334.0	1508.6
4	1960-61	55.2	205.5	50.4	133.2	140.4	346.9	15.5	65.2	33.3	20.0	469	235.5	1347.8
5	1961-62	542.6	239.5	137.5	75.6	105.2	114.3	9.1	638	50.7	36.8	143.8	281.4	1800.3
6	1962-63	104.1	220.3	60.7	150.0	340.6	72.2	95.3	29.6	17.2	75.8	67.9	149.8	1388.5
7	1963-64	191.2	154.5	162.7	93.1	179.5	157.6	80.0	0.4	0.0	65.0	42.5	50.6	1182.9
8	1964-65	68.0	172.1	92.9	183.6	232.1	246.6	3.3	3.6	6.9	40.0	153.3	152.5	1354.9
9	1965-66	214.4	110.2	17.9	20.4	369.3	238.5	298.8	1.7	3.8	55.8	87.6	68.8	1487.2
10	1966-67	145.6	92.7	23.1	253.9	235.1	182.4	108.8	43.6	0.0	59.8	75.4	207.2	1423.6
11	1967-68	300.1	107.0	111.2	104.6	240.3	38.9	27.9	10.5	30.2	78.6	140.8	12.0	1201.9
12	1968-69	338.3	182.4	24.8	170.2	176.5	135.1	81.6	2.8	1.3	40.6	128.0	113.8	1395.4
13	1969-70	66.0	136.9	116.9	43.9	317.3	157.7	110.4	5.2	31.9	56.6	180.5	142.6	1365.9
14	1970-71	88.7	44.5	69.9	60.6	536.7	175.6	29.8	58.1	31.1	80.6	120.0	123.3	1418.9
15	1971-72	295.9	95.6	76.8	418.6	261.5	96.6	148.3	0.2	1.0	10.2	75.1	305.7	1785.5

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
16	1972-73	40.3	213.3	20.2	179.0	362.6	150.3	79.3	0.0	0.0	30.1	176.1	86.4	1337.6
17	1973-74	292.0	98.1	57.9	15.7	300.0	136.4	134.5	0.0	41.7	5.6	163.8	204.5	1450.2
18	1974-75	45.6	138.2	210.0	223.8	109.6	99.6	5.3	0.9	23.3	47.0	253.5	101.1	1257.9
19	1975-76	227.3	84.6	110.3	195.1	195.0	267.0	54.9	1.7	0.0	51.0	123.0	70.9	1358.8
20	1976-77	45.5	56.2	85.5	27.9	271.5	334.6	22.5	0.0	55.1	30.9	133.0	321.1	1403.8
21	1977-78	93.2	89.6	58.4	77.0	471.5	283.4	14.0	17.0	4.8	63.7	70.3	143.3	1386.0
22	1978-79	116.2	79.2	87.6	27.1	199.8	560.5	37.3	0.0	96.8	26.0	32.4	35.6	1383.0
23	1979-80	229.3	93.5	82.5	165.7	213.3	349.3	83.2	0.0	0.0	24.6	98.5	74.0	1427.9
24	1980-81	183.2	68.9	58.6	72.0	146.7	194.8	146.9	3.1	3.1	42.6	109.4	82.9	1112.2
25	1981-82	359.5	77.9	167.5	172.3	320.6	204.4	29.1	0.0	0.0	28.4	65.0	169.3	1594.0
26	1982-83	247.8	116.3	49.9	27.9	195.7	182.6	11.4	0.0	1.0	2.1	47.1	144.2	1026.0
27	1983-84	109.5	56.3	98.1	72.8	103.4	199.3	150.8	30.8	88.8	146.4	173.3	32.3	1261.8
28	1984-85	134.4	77.9	4.9	120.6	242.8	98.6	0.2	88.1	15.3	23.0	36.3	98.9	941.3
29	1985-86	241.1	21.1	41.3	47.0	181.8	186.7	15.0	10.4	66.3	9.3	80.4	50.7	952.9
30	1986-87	55.8	41.3	139.9	45.9	139.6	124.4	18.1	13.1	0.0	38.4	100.9	83.1	805.7
31	1987-88	107.5	13.0	138.0	131.3	305.2	263.6	134.7	0.0	47.4	99.3	160.0	25.2	1405.2

Director of statistics, Madras - Report dt. 1 December 1988.


MONTH-WISE RAINFALL ACCOUNTS (BASED ON 50 YEARS AVERAGE)
RAINFALL IN MILLIMETRES
270
240
180
120
60
0
JAN.
FEB.
MAR.
APR.
MAY.
JUN.
JUL.
AUG.
SEP.
OCT.
NOV.
DEC.

Month war rainfall distribution (Based on 50 years average) –[13]

January	:	20.59 mm.
February	:	26.79 mm.
March	:	49.93 mm.
April		121.02 mm.
May	:	160.89 mm.
June	:	192.56 mm.
July		128.93 mm
August	:	94.96 mm.
September	:	120.85 mm.
October	:	256.77 mm.
November	:	206.58 mm.
December	:	85.38 mm.
Total	:	1464.95 mm. or 1465 mm.

SOILS

Nature, variety and suitability for cultivation of various crops [14] : The soils of Kanniyakumari district are broadly classified into two major groups namely red soil and alluvium soil.

The red soil is further classified into red loam soil and red sandy and the alluvium soil is classified into coastal alluvium and river alluvium. Red soils occupy the largest area in Kanniyakumari district.

The reconnaissance soil survey was conducted during 1984-85 by the Soil Survey and Land Use Organisation, Tirunelveli. The result of the survey has revealed the following soil families as per the classification by soil Taxonomy. The extent of soil with each category is noted against each:–

	Soil (1)		Area in hectare (2)
1.	Coarse loamy, Lithic Ustorthents	:	2446
2.	Fine loamy, Lithic Troporthents	:	1847
3.	Typic Tropopsamments	:	1171
4.	Coarse loamy, Fluventic Dystropepts	:	2731
5.	Fine loamy, Typic Dystropepts	:	31774
6.	Coarse loamy, Fluventic Eutropepts	:	4222
7,	Loamy, Typic Eutropepts	:	4851
8.	Fine loamy, Udic Rhodudalfs	:	8894
9.	Fine loamy, Udic Haplustalfs.	:	1658
10.	Coarse loamy, Aquic Tropudalfs	:	9224
11.	Fine loamy, Typic Tropudalfs	:	23588
12.	Typic Udipsamments	:	2342
13.	Fine loamy, aquic Haplustalfs	:	7894

ORDER : Orders reflect the kind and degree of soil. The soils of Kanniyakumari district come under three orders namely Entisols, Inceptisols and Alfisols. Each order is divided into sub order. The sub order reflects the properties that influence soil genesis and plant grown. Soils are further classified under great group, sub group, family and series etc.

Soils and crop suitability – 1. Coarse Loamy Lithic Ustorthents : This comes under Entisol of red soil group. These soils are very shallow to shallow coarse loamy, yellowish brown light textured non calcareous soils. There is no structural development, having lithic contact within 30 cm. from the surface. These soils occupy on the summit of the sloping land and are subjected to severe sheet erosion and have rapid permeability. These soils are suitable for the cultivation of paddy and banana.

2. Fine loamy Lithic Troporthents : This comes under Entisol of red soils. These soils are yellowish red, moderately deep, fine loamy, non calcareous, well drained neutral soils derived from gneissic parent material. Physiographically the soils occupy on the summit of sloping

lands and are subjected to severe sheet erosion. This quality of soils is best suited for banana under irrigated and rubber and tapioca in rainfed. Surface soil colour ranges from yellowish red to reddish brown.

3. Typic Tropopsamments : These types of soils belong to Entisol of coastal alluvium. They are very pale brown, very deep, sandy, single grained, calcareous, excessively drained and developed from coastal alluvium. They are susceptible to wind erosion and best suited for growing coconuts.

4. Coarse Loamy Fluventic Dystropepts : These soils belong to Inceptisol of alluvial soil group. They are reddish brown, moderately deep, coarse loamy, well drained with moderately rapid permeability. They occur on undulating topography and subjected to sheet erosion. These soils are best suited for growing coconuts.

5. Fine Loamy Typic Dystropepts : Soils under this family belong to Inceptisol of red soil group. They are reddish brown, very deep fine loamy and non calcareous, strongly acidic well drained with moderately slow permeability. They occur on sloping lands of undulating topography and are subjected to moderate sheet erosion. These soils are best suited for growing paddy under irrigated and tapioca under rainfed. The surface texture ranges from sandy clay loam to clay loam.

6. Coarse Loamy, Fluventic Eutropepts : These types of soils belong to Inceptisol of alluvial soil group. These soils are dark yellowish brown, very deep coarse loamy, moderately well drained and non calcareous soils with moderately rapid permeability and occur on sloping lands susceptible from slight to moderate sheet erosion. They are best suited for growing paddy,banana and groundnut. The surface texture ranges from sandy loam to sandy clay loam.

7. Loamy, Typic Eutropepts : These varieties of soils belong to Inceptisol of Red sand soil. They are yellowish red, deep, gravelly clay loam, non calcareous, medium acidic well drained and moderately rapid permeability. Physiographically, these soils occupy sloping lands of undulating topography and are subjected to severe sheet erosion. They are best suited for growing cole crops under irrigated and rubber under rainfed. The surface texture ranges from gravelly loam to sandy clay loam.

8. Fine Loamy, Udic Rhodudalfs : Soils under this family belong to Alfisol of red loam soil. They are dark red, deep, sandy clay loam texture, non calcareous, well drained, slightly acidic soil and moderately rapid permeability. Physiographically these soils occur mainly adjacent to coastal alluvium and on the side slopes of undulating topography and are subjected to rill and gully erosion. These soils are best suited for growing cashew, mango and tapioca. The surface texture ranges from sandy clay loam to clay loam.

9. Fine Loamy, Udic Haplustalfs : This family belongs to Alfisol of Red loam. These soils are dark brown soil, deep, fine loamy, non calcareous, well drained moderately rapid permeability. The structure development of the soil is moderate. These soils occur on sloping lands of undulating topography and they are best suited for growing paddy, pulses and banana.

10. Coarse Loamy, Aquic Tropudalfs : These soils belong to alfisol of red and sandy soil. They are yellowish brown, deep, coarse loamy, noncalcareous, moderately drained acid soils with moderate permeability. Physiographically, these soils occur on valley of undulating topography and are subjected to moderate sheet erosion. The soils are best suited for growing paddy. The surface texture ranges from sandy clay loam to clay loam.

11. Fine Loamy, Typic Tropudalfs : These soils belong to Alfisol of red loam soils. They are dark grayish brown, very deep, fine loamy, non-calcareous, imperfectly drained soils with moderately slow permeability. Physiographically, they occur on gently sloping lands and susceptible to moderate sheet erosion. They are best suited for growing paddy and pulses. The surface/texture ranges from sandy clay loam to clay loam.

12. Typic Udipsamments : These soils belong to Entisol of coastal alluvium and are red and grayish brown, sandy deep to moderately deep, coarse single grained texture, calcareous as well as non-calcareous, excessively drained, developed from coastal alluvium. These soils have rapid permeability, subjected to wind erosion are best suited for growing coconuts and palmyrah.

13. Fine Loamy, Acquic Haplustalfs : These soils belong to Alfisol. They are dark gray, very deep, fine loamy, imperfectly drained and calcareous soils and have a moderately slow permeability. They occur on gently sloping lands and are subjected to slight sheet erosion. These

soils are best suited for growing only paddy. The surface texture ranges from sandy clay loam to silty clay loam.

Popularly known as the granary of former Travancore State, Kanniyakumari district is famous for its vast stretches of paddy fields and rich forests. There are three main soil groups in the district.[15] Laterite types of soils occur in the blocks of Thiruvattar, Munchirai, Kurunthencode, Rajakkamangalam, Killiyoor, Thuckalai and Melpuram. Mixed types of red and alluvial soil occur in Agasthiswaram and Thovalai blocks. Soils are mostly red loam and lateritic in nature, with coastal alluvium in the southern side. The lateritic and red loam soils are poor to medium in fertility, while the coastal alluvium is high in fertility.

The soils are sandy to sandy loam in texture. In major area of Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, lime status is "Nil" due to the occurrence of more area under acid condition. The high, acidity prevalent in the district is mainly due to the heavy rainfall and heavy leaching of bases in the hilly areas.

Crops like, tea, coffee, rubber, coconut, cocoa, pine apple, cloves and pepper are cultivated in high level lands, coconut, arecanut, paddy and banana in low level lands and paddy, coconut, banana tapioca, groundnut, and vegetables in the mid lands. In orchards, mango, citrus, cashew, and jack are the important fruit bearing trees raised. Field is quite appreciable, in high level, low lands and mid lands, if monsoon sets in at the appropriate time. Since, the district is gifted with rich forests, seasonal rains are not uncommon and so scarcity of water for irrigation, is not normally felt.[16]

The area under cultivation with food crops, commercial crops, oil seeds and others is given in tables that follow :—

Area under crops in Kanniyakumari district (*in hectares*)

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Crop (2)	Year 1975-76 (3)	1976-77 (4)	1977-78 (5)	1978-79 (6)	1979-80 (7)	1980-81 (8)	1981-82 (9)
	Food Crops –							
1	Paddy	53034	44580	49248	46280	49963	44000	48091
2	Cholam	20	100	29	8	4	–	29
	Pulses –							
3	Redgram	138	42	70	3	3	–	1
4	Blackgram	2171	4225	4139	926	851	1000	668
5	Greengram	589	1937	1795	67	63	–	27
6	Horsegram	1421	566	334	449	4	–	23
7	Other Pulses	708	161	–	856	103	1000	32
8	Chillies	63	57	24	24	11	–	37
9	Other condiments and spices	2734	2941	3190	3334	3277	3000	3352
10	Total sugar crops	2861	3032	3068	3164	3141	3000	3140
11	Mangoes	2424	1652	1767	1795	1765	2000	1800
12	Bananas	1795	1388	1371	1596	1902	2000	2162
13	Other fruits and Vegeta-bles including root Crops	15933	16009	16544	15494	15181	16000	15414
	Oil Seeds –							
14	Groundnut	2480	1764	1819	1851	1327	1000	1353
15	Coconut	15507	16239	15122	15353	15641	15000	15848
16	Other oil seeds	594	344	368	306	260	1000	319
17	Total drugs and narcotics	832	755	691	627	13327	13000	12856

Area under crops in Kanniyakumari district
(*in hectares*)

Name of the Crop		*1982-83*	*1983-84*
Paddy	:	46025	39619
Cholam	:	19	34
Redgram	:	21	35
Blackgram	:	947	576
Greengram	:	72	64
Horsegram	:	46	125
Other pulses	:	58	147
Chillies	:	20	22
Other condiments and spices	:	3386	3535
Total sugar crops	:	3077	3045
Mangoes	:	1749	1721
Bananas	:	2215	2205
Other fruits and Vegetables including root crops	:	15492	15449
Groundnut	:	1357	922
Cocount	:	16076	16775
Other oil seeds	:	349	366

	1984-85	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
Paddy	46000	44000	29685	33073
Cholam	30	5	57	6
Redgram	–	–	12	–
Blackgram	2600	2900	1480	–
Greengram	–	–	3	–
Horsegram	–	–	357	–
Other pulses	–	–	125	–
Total pulses	5002	4500	2095	5432
Chillies	20	21	10	15
Other condiments and spices	3535	3535	3535	3535
Total sugar crops	3045	3140	2800	2400
Mangoes	1721	1721	1721	1721
Bananas	2205	2350	2530	2685
Other fruits and Vegetables including root crops	15449	15449	15449	15449
Groundnut	960	1056	822	683
Coconut	16775	17200	17200	17200
Other oil seeds	366	366	300	350
Rubber	12800	12800	12800	12800

Director of Statistics, Madras, Report dated 21, December 1988.

The distribution of families engaged in agriculture with reference to their size of their holdings reveals that over 90 per cent of the cultivators are small and marginal farmers who own nearly 57 per cent of the area under cultivation.

(size – Distribution of holdings and area held by the cultivators)

Size group (In Hacs.) (1) (2)	*Holdings No. (3)*	*Holdings Per cent (4)*	*Area held Hectares (5)*	*Area held percentage (6)*	*Average size of holding (ha.) (7)*
0.01 - 0.49	191437	78.0	33126	34.9	0.173
0.50 - 0.90	31087	12.6	21698	22.8	0.697
1.00 - 1.99	17605	7.2	23447	24.7	1.331
2.00 - 2.99	3306	1.3	7621	8.0	2.305
3.00 - 3.99	1477	0.6	5074	5.3	3.435
4.00 - 4.99	158	0.1	688	0.7	4.354
5.00 - 9.99	214	0.1	1442	1.5	6.738
10.00 - 19.99	118	0.1	1574	1.7	13.338
20.00 - 29.99	13	..	347	0.4	26.592
30.00 - and above	..	..	..	..	..
Total	245415	100.00	95017	100.00	

It may be seen from the above statement, that about 35 per cent of the total area is held by marginal farmers with less than 0.50 ha. who account for 78 per cent of the total cultivators. The percentage of cultivators with less than 2.00 ha is 98 who are cultivating 82 per cent of the total cultivated area. The average size of land held by a marginal farmer is about one sixth of a hectare or roughly 43 cents. 20 per cent of the cultivators are small farmers, who cultivate 48 per cent of the area and their average holding is less than a hectare. Tenancy cultivation and absentee landlordism are prevalent in this district. Farms over 3 hectares constitute less than a per cent of the total number of holdings. There is thereby vast scope for uplifting small and marginal farmers which will go a long way to improve their economic and social status. The Government have taken up their cause and helping them in all respects.[17]

Horticulture : Horticulture is one of the main branches of agriculture. Originally, it meant specifically the cultivation of a garden. Plants such as flowers, vegetables, fruits and ornamentals that were grown in gardens which acquired the name "horticultural plants". The present meaning of horticulture includes not only the growing of plants in gardens for pleasure or for profit, but the large scale production of vegetables, fruits, flowers and ornamentals in fields. It also includes many services which are ancillary to the production and marketing of the plants and crops.

Horticulture in Kanniyakumari district : Kanniyakumari district enjoys both tropical as well as subtropical climatic conditions obtaining in the eastern and southern coastal regions of the district and to some extent in the western coastal region also the land is more or less plain and enjoys tropical climate. Other parts of the district consist of western ghat mountains and yelas. The climatic condition obtaining in the hill area of this district is predominantly subtropical leading itself quite favourable for cultivation of scores of horticultural crops like subtropical and tropical fruit kinds, spices and plantation crops. In the yelas, paddy, banana, tuber crops and vegetables are mainly grown.

The total geographical area of the district is 1.67 lakhs hectares of which an extent of 0.8 lakh hectares is covered under cultivation of various crops as per the 1984-85 statistical data. Area under horticultural crops of all kinds in the district is 0.35 lakh ha. which accounts for 47.5 per cent of the total area cultivated.[18]

Season and yield per hectare[19]

Sl. No. *(1)*	*Crop* *(2)*	*Season* *(3)*	*Yield*
1	Mango	July to December	20,000 kg/per ha.
2	Guava	June to December	25,000 kg/per ha.
3	Lime	– do –	25,500 kg./per ha.
4	Banana	January, February and November	50 tonnes/per ha.
5	Pepper	July to December	1,500 kg/ha.
6	Cloves	– do –	1600 kg/ha.

Application of fertiliser per tree

Crop *(1)*	*Cattle manure* *(2)*	*N/kg.* *(3)*	*P/kg.* *(4)*	*K/kg.* *(5)*
Mango	50	1.0	1.0	1.5
Guava	50	1	1	1
Lime	30	0.6	0.2	0.5
Banana	10	0.110	0.35	0.330 gm/plant
Pepper	10	0.100	0.400	0.140 vin

Table - I

Area under horticultural crops in Kanniyakumari district 1984-8520

Crop (1)	Area in hectares Agasthis waram (2)	Thovalai (3)	Kalkulam (4)	Vilavan-code (5)	Total (6)
Banana	241	274	1022	646	2183
Mango	418	100	577	618	1713
Jack	25	47	454	264	790
Guava	5	4	2	2	13
Lime	2	33	–	2	37
Pineapple	–	10	9	2	21
Other Fresh Fruits	2	–	–	–	2
Tapioca	64	434	3545	7359	11402
Other Vegetable Crops	3	15	47	77	142
Arecanut	5	192	424	180	801
Chillies	1	5	–	19	25
Turmeric	327	–	–	–	327
Cardamom	–	44	31	–	75
Cloves	–	244	323	19	586
Pepper	–	10	52	15	77
Ginger	–	–	6	21	27
Nutmeg	–	–	3	–	3
Cashew	1489	52	487	190	2218
Coffee	–	20	21	–	41
Tea	–	105	298	–	403

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Rubber	–	1289	6731	5273	13293
Betelvine	–	–	6	25	31
Flowers	–	180	4	–	184

Table - II
Area under horticultural crops in Kanniyakumari district 1985-86[21]

Sl. No.	Crop	Area in hectares				
		Agasthes waram	Thovalai	Kalkulam	Vilavann code	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	Banana	256	262	1162	670	2350
2	Mango	241	102	615	615	1753
3	Jack	25	50	468	253	796
4	Guava	5	5	5	1	16
5	Lime	2	33	1	1	37
6	Pineapple	–	10	13	3	26
7	Orange	–	–	43	31	74
8	Tapioca	68	362	3423	7375	11,228
9	Sweet Potato	–	–	–	1	1
10	Yam	–	1	1	–	2
11	Onion	–	4	–	–	4
12	Brinjal	4	5	4	52	65
13	Bhendi	1	4	4	28	37
14	Lab-Lab	–	3	2	2	7
15	Cabbage	–	–	–	3	3
16	Other Vegetables	–	5	29	16	50
17	Greens	1	2	2	–	5
18	Arecanut	4	173	430	177	784
19	Cardamom	–	44	74	–	118

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
20	Ginger	–	–	6	20	26
21	Pepper	–	10	54	15	79
22	Cloves	–	240	305	11	556
23	Nutmeg	–	–	6	8	14
24	Chillies	–	5	2	10	17
25	Turmeric	–	–	1	–	1
26	Tamarind	324	80	597	997	1998
27	Coco	–	–	35	5	40
28	Cashew	1465	47	485	189	2186
29	Coffee	–	20	24	2	46
30	Tea	–	105	304	–	409
31	Rubber	–	1289	6800	5421	13510
32	Betelvine	–	–	8	32	40
33	Flowers	–	180	2	–	182

Predominant pests and diseases and control measures

Disease	*Pesticides*	*Control Measures*
Mango	Hopper	Phoselone 0.05%
	Stemborer	Calphos tablet/hole
Banana	Wilt	Bavistin 50 Mg.tablet
Guava	Tea mosquito bug	0.1% malathion
Citrus	Nematode	750 g/tree carbofuran
Cloves	Leaf spot	Dithane M.45/2 gms/litre spray

Floriculture[22] : Flowers such as jasmine, jathi malli, mullai, norium and chrysanthimum are mainly cultivated in Thovalai taluk. Flowers like crosandra and marikolundu are also grown in limited extent. The total area under flower cultivation is 185 ha. in the district. The flowers

harvested here are purchased by the commission agents and a major part of them are sent to Trivandrum.

Horticultural schemes : There are twelve horticultural schemes implemented in this district, including maintenance of three horticultural farms. During 1985-86, a sum of Rs. 10.4 lakhs was spent in this district with a total realisation of Rs.10.5 lakhs as revenue. From 1986-87 horticultural activities in the district have been strengthened further with greater emphasis on increasing the area and production of subtropical fruits including banana and pineapple, spices and plantation crops.

HORTICULTURAL FARMS

1. Government Fruit Farm, Kanniyakumari : The Farm situated in Kundal village near Kanniyakumari on the N.H. 47 road was established in the year 1922 by Sreemoolam Thirunal Maharaja of Travancore on an area of 6.97 ha. Consequent on the State reorganisation in 1956, and merger of present Kanniyakumari district with Tamil Nadu, the maintenance of the farm has been entrusted to the State Agriculture department. In view of the special phenomenon of off-season bearing in mango, under the I.C.A.R. auspices. research was carried out from 1960 to 1969. In order to facilitate research activities, an additional area of 5.69 ha. of land was added to the farm in 1964 by purchasing the adjoining land from private land holders. Until 1969, the farm was maintained by the composite Agriculture department to serve as a model farm as well as a nursery centre for production of fruit plants of various kinds. In September 1979 the farm came under the newly formed department of Horticulture. The propagation activities had been stepped up year after year. This farm is the main source of supply of pedigree plants of different fruit kinds, for the centrally assisted western ghats scheme for the development of sub-tropical fruits and spices.

Though this farm is situated in an area of considerably low rainfall, through effective management the annual profit of the farm has increased from Rs. 0.20 lakh in 1981-82 to Rs. 3.07 lakhs in 1985-86. Annually, the farm produces and distributes 1.25 lakhs of plants including 60,000 mango grafts.

2. Pineapple Nursery - Pechiparai : This farm was started in 1975 in Pechiparai village in an area of 9.8 ha. of forest land (taken on long lease, and is situated adjoining the irrigation channel of Pechiparai dam. Except roads and pathways, the entire area is covered with pineapple crop. The main object is to produce suckers of "Kews" variety of

pineapple for distribution and expansion of area under this variety which is very well suited for industrial purpose. Annually, on an average, 1.5 lakhs suckers are produced and distributed to the growers, through Hill Area Development Scheme.

Since the farm is maintained under rainfed conditions the sucker production is subject to the vagaries of the weather, so to say rainfall. The failure of monsoon from 1982 to1986 curtailed the production of suckers. During the financial year 1985-86, the expenditure was Rs. 0.96 lakh, while the revenue was Rs. 0.83 lakh only. It has been proposed to improve irrigation facilities and also to produce and distribute 1.0 lakh suckers annually. Pineapple fruits produced in this farm are sold to the Kanniyakumari Fruit Co-operative (KANYAFCO) Marthandam for canning. To step up the revenue of the farm, black pepper vines have been trained over the forest trees.

Pepper nursery, Valiya Yela, Pechiparai : Pepper nursery,which was established in 1967 was made permanent in 1981. The total area of the farm is 6 hectares and it is situated on the road from Pechiparai to Kothayaar dam near'o'point. The farm is situated in the forest land. An area of 5.6 hectares is under pepper, clove and nutmeg cultivation apart from the nursery. There is an open well for irrigation.

The farm produces annually two lakhs pepper plants of the variety "Kuttanadan," for distribution to growers of this district and in other parts of Tamil Nadu through Hill Area Development Schemes. In the same farm, scheme for hybrid pepper development(Panniyur-1) is also implemented on an area of 3 hectares through which annually 1.0 lakh rooted cuttings of Panniyur-1 pepper and 10,000 clove seedlings are produced for distribution to growers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS SCHEMES

The various permanent plan and non-plan schemes implemented in the district are given below :—

(i) Permanent schemes :—

(1) Government fruit farm, Kanniyakumari

(2) Pepper nursery, Pechiparai

(3) Arecanut development scheme (located in Govt. fruit farm, Kanniyakumari)

Plan schemes :

(1) Development of subtropical fruits and spices in Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli districts under Western Ghat Development Programme with central and state assistance.

(2) Development of "KEW" variety pineapple *(state plan)*

(3) Development of hybrid pepper *(state plan)*

(4) Distribution of hybrid vegetable seeds *(state plan)*

(5) Banana development scheme *(state plan)*

(6) Cashew development scheme *(central plan)*

(7) Distribution of pulses and vegetable minikits *(central plan)*

Non plan scheme :

(1) Pineapple development scheme (*state plan*)

Sericulture : Sericulture was first introduced in Kanniyakumari district during 1978-79 as an experimental measure and it continues to function successfully.

Sericulture extension centre : A Sericulture extension centre was established at Nagercoil during 1980-81. The centre is engaged in supplying layings to the farmers and it also provides technical guidance to the sericulturists. During 1983-84, fifty farmers were imparted training for 3 months and a monthly stipend of Rs.100/- was given to them. Besides, tools and implements worth Rs. 400/- were given for chawkie rearing. Yearwise details of the farmers trained from 1979-80 to 1983-94 are given below :—

Year *(1)*	*No. of farmers trained.* *(2)*
1979-80	72
1980-81	25
1981-82	68

(1)	*(2)*
1982-83	70
1983-84	50

Yearwar area under mulberry cultivation is as follows[23] :–

(area planted)

Year	*Target (ha.)*	*Achievement (ha.)*	*No.of S.C. benefited*
1979-80	20.00	24.00	–
1980-81	60.00	68.80	55
1981-82	30.00	39.20	74
1982-83	60.00	24.00	78
1983-84	20.00	20.00	91
1984-85	40.00	40.00	130

Community chawkie centres : Government established a Chawkie rearing centre at Anjukiramam on 5 August 1982. During 1982-83, 872 dfls were reared and distributed to the 61 sericulturists. During 1984-85, 3836 dfls were reared and distributed to 91 farmers.

Government Cocoon Market : The Government set up a cocoon market at Nagercoil and is functioning from 25 May 1980. Prior to this, Cocoons were taken to Government cocoon market Tenkasi in Tirunelveli Kattabomman district for sale.

Quantity of cocoons transacted from 1980-81 to 1984-85 is as follows :–

Year	*Quantity of cocoons transacted*
1980-81	1040.130 kgs.
1981-82	970.480 kgs.
1982-83	1286.555 kgs.
1983-84	2210.870 kgs.
1984-85 (1-9-1984)	1508.520 kgs.

The total area under mulberry cultivation in 1985-86 was 64.00 acres. This had come down to 47.25 acres in 1986-87.

The talukwise particulars regarding the mulberry expansion for the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 are as follows[24] :–

	Taluk	*Area (in acres)*	
		1985-86	*1986-87*
1.	Thovalai	14.50	10.40
2.	Agasthiswaram	19.50	15.60
3.	Kalkulam	15.50	10.00
4.	Vilavancode	14.50	11.25
	Total	64.00	47.25

Talukwar statement showing the quantity of cocoons produced from 1980-81 to 1986-87 are as follows :–

Cocoon production (In kgs.)

Year	*Taluk*				
	Thovalai	*Agasthis-waram*	*Kalkulam*	*Vilavancode*	*Total*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
1980-81	350.500	460.000	190.500	119.350	1120.350
1981-82	270.000	360.000	150.500	178.900	959.400
1982-83	370.500	480.000	200.500	129.300	1180.300
1983-84	600.000	700.000	450.000	415.800	2165.800
1984-85	1060.000	1500.500	560.000	451.000	3571.500
1985-86	1500.000	2080.000	1020.300	917.400	5517.700
1986-87	960.100	1500.000	250.300	300.400	3010.800

Reeling unit : The Government have set up a reeling unit at Nagercoil in December 1980 with capacity of 6 basins.

Demonstration-*cum*-training centre : The Government established a Demonstration-cum-training centre at Konam near Nagercoil. The centre imparts training to new entrepreneurs in the field of sericulture.

Sericulture by Tribals [26] : Hill tribes namely Kanis of Arugani in Vilavancode taluk have also taken up sericultural work. About ten Kani families were engaged in this work during 1983-84 and a sum of Rs. 50,000/- was sanctioned to them as loán, for buying appliances and for the construction of silkworm rearing sheds.

Cropping pattern : The following is the crop pattern in the district. This district produces paddy, tapioca, pulses and oil seeds such as groundnut, gingelly and coconut besides commerical crops such as cashew, rubber, fruits (mango, jack, pineapple) and spices (pepper, cloves and nutmeg). Another important feature of this district is the production of off season mangoes, especially in and around Kanniyakumari.

Paddy : Paddy is the main food crop of this district. It is raised in two seasons. First crop is sown in the months of April- May and second crop is raised in the months of September-October.

Tapioca is raised as a subsidiary food crop in this district. The main planting season is April-May. In some pockets planting is also done in September-October as second season crop. It is purely raised as rainfed crop in this district, commensurate with the setting up of monsoon.

Coconut is an important cash crop in this district. The main planting season is May to July. Pulses are raised purely in rice-fallows and as mixed crop in tapioca. The important pulses are blackgram, greengram, horsegram, cowpea and redgram. In the months of April, May & September - October pulses are raised as mixture with tapioca. In the months February- May, pulses are exclusively raised in rice fallows.

Vegetables are cultivated during January - February and July - August. Pot watering is the local practice. Vegetables are also raised as 3rd crop, after the harvest of 2nd crop of paddy in some pockets of this district, which is seldom done in other districts.

Banana is cultivated mainly from March to May and September-October. **Groundnut** is raised during March-April and October-November as a rainfed crop. In addition, pepper, cloves, arecanut, betelvine, cocoa, gingelly, ginger, turmeric, arrowroot etc., are also grown in this district, in small areas.

Crop sequence followed in Kanniyakumari district

1.	Paddy-paddy-fallow	(One year rotation)
2.	Paddy-paddy-pulses	(One year rotation)
3.	Paddy-banana-paddy	(two years rotation)
4.	Paddy-banana-tapioca	(two years rotation)

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF IMPROVED CROPS AND CROP ROTATION[27]

Cultivation practices of Paddy : Rice is the main food crop of the district. It is raised in two successive seasons. First crop is sown in the month of April-May which is known as Kannipoo (Kar season) and the second crop is raised in the months of September- October which is known as Kumbapoo (Pishanam season).In sizeable area the first crop of rice is raised under semi-dry conditions mostly in Nanjil Nadu comprising of Agasthiswaram and Thovalai taluks. During the second crop season, the entire area is taken up for transplantation. In Kanniyakumari, three different systems of cultivation are in vogue viz. (i) semi-dry cultivation (ii) wet direct sown cultivation and (iii) wet transplanted cultivation.

(i) Semi-dry cultivation : This system of cultivation is mainly followed in Agasthiswaram, Thovalai and parts of Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. When there are summer showers in the months of April-May, the seeds are sown broadcast at the rate of 100 kgs./ha. covered by ploughing and compacted. Levelling and compaction are repeated on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th day of sowing. For about a month, the crop grows with the available soil moisture and then the field is flooded with the receipt of water in the channel in the month of June. In semi-dry condition high yielding rice varieties viz. TKN.9. ADT.36 and TPS.1 are cultivated.

Besides, the local varieties kattisamba and kuruvai which have a duration of 105 to 115 days are also cultivated in a smaller extent.

(ii) Wet direct sown cultivation : This method of cultivation is followed in places where plenty of water is available during the months of May-June. Short term high yielding varieties like TKM.9, ADT.36 and TPS.1, are cultivated. Local varieties like kattisamba and kuruvai are cultivated in smaller extent. Sprouted seeds are broadcast in the puddled soils at the rate of 75 kgs./ha.

(iii) Wet Transplanted Cultivation : This system is practised in channel - fed areas of Agasthiswaram, Thovalai taluks and also in major areas in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks during the first season, but during the second season this method is adopted in the entire Kanniyakumari district. During the first season, TKM. 9, ADT.36,TPS. 1 are the predominant varieties while in the second season, IR.20, Ponni, white ponni, AU.2 TPS. 2 and CD.1009 are the high yielding strains cultivated in the district. Besides, these, local varieties like Valsiraimundan, Thattathavellai, Vallarakkan and Kochisamba are also cultivated. Ponni, a medium duration variety is generally recommended for second season. But in Kalkulam and Vilavancod taluks, it is cultivated mostly during the first season (kannipoo season).

Tapioca : Tapioca is cultivated in the district purely on rainfed condition. It is cultivated in 12,000 ha. on receipt of summer showers in the month of April-May and in September-October. Tapioca setts are planted in the centre of the heap formed by soil in the fields at a distance of 2 to 3 feet. Most of the tapioca areas come under Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, where terraced type of cultivation is practised. The duration of the crop is 10 months. First season commences, in the month of May–June and the other season for planting tapioca is September–October. About 70 per cent of the area is planted in the first season while the remaining areas are cropped in the second season i.e. September–October. The average yield of tapioca is 12 tonnes/ha. The HYVs such as Srivisagam and M4.have the yield potentiality of 25 to 30 tonnes/ha. After the harvest, the tubers are sold for consumption, purposes. Chips are also made, after cutting the tubes into small ones and dried in the open sun shine and these chips are used in flour mills, for making various products.

Pulses : Pulses are raised purely on rainfed conditions. They are raised in three seasons here. In the month of April-May, pulses are raised

as intercrop with tapioca. In second crop, tapioca pulses are raised in the month of September-October. as intercrop. Normally, blackgram and greengram are sown as first crop in the month of April-May and horsegram and blackgram are sown in the second season in the month of September-October as intercrop. Pulses are also raised in rice fallows, soon after the harvest of second crop paddy.[28]

Particulars showing area covered under paddy cultivation and area in which high yielding varieties are raised are furnished in table 1. The details of normal area and productivity of different crops are given in table 2 and the details of cost of cultivation of different crops are given in table 3.

*** TABLE - 1**

Year (1)	*Area under paddy both crops (in ha.)* (2)	*High yielding varieties (in hectares)* (3)
1975-76	53034	33512
1976-77	44580	32458
1977-78	49245	31226
1978-79	46209	31844
1979-80	49671	31541
1980-81	43695	39296
1981-82	48091	29030
1982-83	46212	30343
1983-84	38526	29944
1984-85	46227	24658
1985-86	44189	30787
1986-87	29685	21400
1987-88	33077	30800

* Director of Agriculture, Madras - Report dt. 23 September 1986 and Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagercoil, dt.28 November 1988.

TABLE - 2

Normal area and productivity of different crops

Sl. No. (1)	*Crop* (2)	*Area (in hacs.)* (3)	*Normal yield in kgs./hacs.* (4)
1.	Paddy	46000 (23000 + 23000) both crops	2569.5 kg. of rice.
2..	Tapioca	12000	10000 kg.
3.	Coconut	15200	10000 nuts/ha.
4.	Groundnut	1000	750 kg.
5.	Banana	3006	25000 kg/ha.
6.	Cashew	2153	2.000 M. Tonnes
7.	Arecanut	757	5.0 lakh nuts
8.	Mango	1769	20.000 m.tonnes
9.	Pepper	42	250 kg./ha.
10.	Pulses	5000	280 kg/ha.
11.	Rubber	12800	1200 kg/ha

Report on "Agriculture in Kanniyakumari, Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagercoil, 1987.

Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagercoil - Report dt. 28 November 1988

TABLE - 3

Cost of cultivation of Different crops in Kanniyakumari district [29]

Name of the Crop (1)	*Total cost of cultivation/Ac* (2)	*Gross Income* (3)	*Net Income* (4)
Paddy (HYV)	1838.00	2757.00	919.00
Paddy (local)	1450.00	2120.00	670.00
Tapioca (rainfed)	1640.00	2660.00	1020.00
Coconut (rainfed)	2625.00 or *6562.00 per ha.*	5075.00	2450.00
Banana (Nendran) eathanvazhai	6120.00	9600.00	3480.00

Banana (poovan, monthan and other local varieties	3120.00	6400.00	3280.00
Groundnut (rainfed)	1035.00	1500.00	465.00
Rubber (maintenance)	2250.00	7200.00	4950.00
Pulses (rainfed)	316.50	800.00	438.50
Cashewnut (rainfed)	940.00	2800.00	1860.00
Vegetables (brinjal)	1825.00	5250.00	3425.00
Betelvine	11920.00	20000.00	8080.00
Flowers (jasmine)	6175.00	16800.00	10625.00

Agricultural Extension Centres[30] : There are 19 Agricultural extension centres in Kanniyakumari district. They are functioning at the following places :–

1. Nagercoil
2. Boothapandi
3. Perumalpuram
4. Pazhavilai
5. Kurunthencode
6. Kozhiporevilai
7. Thiruvattar
8. Melpuram
9. Killiyoor
10. Munchirai
11. Sahayanagar
12. Parakkai
13. Thuckalay
14. Kumarapuram
15. Thoduvetti
16. Karungal
17. Anjugraman
18. Monday Market
19. Suchindrum at Vazhukkamparai

Each Agricultural extension centre is manned by an Agricultural Officer. The extension centres play an important role in providing technical guidance to the farmers. Farmers are also able to get inputs like seeds of high yielding varieties, pesticides and bio-fertilizers like Azospirillim, Azolla etc. Thus, the agricultural extension centres function for the betterment of the farming community.

Training and Visit System[31] : With the assistance of World Bank, the Training and Visit System of extension was introduced in Kanniyakumari district in September 1982. This is a reorganised extension system, laying emphasis for the frequent contact between the

extension personnel and farmers for the transfer of technology. This system also helps to identify the problems encountered by the farmers and paves way to find out suitable solutions. Under this system, for every 800 to 1000 farm families, one Assistant Agricultural Officer is working to render necessary technical guidance. The Assistant Agricultural Officer has to make visits on scheduled dates, every fortnight.

Before the implementation of the Training and Visit System in the district, some places located in remote areas were not covered by the extension staff, since there were no such scheduled visits on the specified dates. Now, the system has been implemented in all the villages of the district.

Rubber Plantations :[32] The area covered by rubber plantation and the number of the rubber growing units in Kanniyakumari district at the end of 1978-79 as follows :–

Sl. No. (1)	*Place* (2)	*No. of units* (3)	*Area in hectares* (4)
1	Thovalai	59	1038
2	Kalkulam	2161	5338
3	Vilavancode	1468	4931
4	Total in Kanniya-kumari district	3668	11307
5	Total in Tamilnadu	3720	11984
6	Total in India	156138	249190

Resultantly, as against 11307 hectares covered under rubber plantation in 1978-79, it rose to 12688 hectares in the year 1980. In 1986, the area under rubber plantations has further risen up to 13168 hectares in all, (both Government as well as private), which constitutes about 97 per cent of the total area covered under rubber plantations in the State of Tamil Nadu. In these plantations, about 50,000 people are employed.

The Rubber Board which is under the control of the Government of India is having a Regional Office at Nagercoil and a rubber nursery near kuzhithurai.

Rubber replanted area

Rubber under Tapping

Necessary extension and advisory services are rendered through the Regional office for the benefit of rubber growers in Kanniyakumari district, with the object of increasing production and productivity of rubber and on the other hand to uplift their economic condition. The Board implemented "Rubber Plantation Development Scheme" with a view to encourage new planting/replanting during the five year period from 1980-81 to 1984-85. The scheme has provided for grant of material, finanical and technical assistance from the Board and also long term loans from banks under the credit scheme of Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation to the rubber growers.

The assistance under the scheme includes cash subsidy from the Rubber Board, input subsidies for small holders, long term financial credit from banks, interest subsidy of bank loan and free technical support.

Rubber Board is also implementing a scheme for promotion of irrigation. The scheme provides for financial assistance at the rate of Rs.2,500/- per hectare with ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- per individual for promotion of irrigation in the traditional rubber growing areas.[33]

Financial outlay for implementing in the traditional rubber growing area is Rs.10 lakhs.

Cashewnut Cultivation:[34] Area under Cashew cultivation in Kanniyakumari district is as follows:-

	Taluk		*Area in hectares*
1.	Agasthiswaram	–	1632
2	Thovalai	–	5
3.	Kalkulam	–	474
4.	Vilavancode	–	181
	Total	–	2302

Coffee and Tea Plantations: The area covered under coffee and tea Plantations in Kanniyakumari district is 42 hectares and 403 hectares respectively. The plantation are mostly in Thovalai and Kalkulam taluks. The total area covered under coffee and tea plantations, in the State of Tamil Nadu is 33319 hectares, and 40794 hectares respectively. When compared to the total extent covered by the coffee and tea plantations in the State, the area in Kanniyakumari district is quite nominal.

Progress of Scientific Agriculture :[35] Agriculture in India is undergoing transformation. Traditional technology is slowly giving way to modern technology. The new strategy comprises the introduction of new and high yielding varieties of seed materials increased application of the recommended doses of fertilizers and extension of the use of pesticides. This technological breakthrough has brought about spectacular changes in agricultural production.

Agricultural Implements–Old types : The implements which are in common use all over India are a few and simple. The mould board ploughs bakhan or blade harrow, wooden seed drill, cultivators, harrows, sickle etc., constitute the average farmers' agricultural implements.

In paddy growing areas a large number of bullocks are maintained by farmers to finish quickly the puddling of field, so that transplantation of seedlings is finished, in time.

The use of machines for cultivating, harvesting, threshing etc., has made vast strides in recent years. The use of machine is to substitute human effort and to increase its productive efforts.

Terrain and Agricultural Operations in the district : The terrain is flat in Agasthiswaram and a portion of Thovalai taluks and the soil is more suited for raising tapioca and other fruit bearing trees like mango, jack etc. As more trace are standing in dry lands, modern equipments such as tractors etc. are not used for dry cultivation, particularly, in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. Even ploughing by bullocks are not used for cultivation of dry lands. Instead, the land is reclaimed and brought fit for dry cultivation by manual labour only. The modern equipments and ploughing by bullocks are mainly used for wet cultivation in Agathiswaram and Thovalai taluks. The use of tractor in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks for wet cultivation is also gaining momentum, in the recent past.

Modern Implements[36] : When mechanical power was first used in the field of agriculture, a stationary steam engine with a cable arrangement for hauling was adopted. This, however, proved to be of limited utility, for different operations. Neverthless, the advent of the internal combustion engine completely revolutionized the scope of agricultural planning, opening a vast field of possibilities and paving way for the introduction of machines and implements over the entire range of

agricultural operations which had been done from the earliest times by manual labour. Some of the agricultural machines and implements popularly in use today are described below.

1. **Tractors**[37] : Tractors are used to bring more lands under cultivation by reclamation of uncultivated wastes, levelling of undulating areas and clearance of jungles. They are used also for intensifying cultivation by deep ploughing, harrowing, bunding and terracing. By tractors extensive and intensive cultivation is achieved on a large scale. Ploughing and harrowing operations, puddling and trampling of green manures are performed with utmost efficiency and speed with tractors. The operations of bulldozers cover reclamation work involving levelling, bunding, reclamation of new lands, realigning eroded fields, filling up of gullies, clearing of sand cast areas in flood-affected regions, excavation of tanks and silt clearance in tanks and spring channels.

Details of agricultural implements older types and modern implements used in the district are as follows : –

Hand operated implements :–

	Rural	*Urban*	*Total*
1. Seed/fertilizer drill	27	–	27
2. Seed drill	18	–	18
3. Chaff cutter	505	5	510
4. Sprayer	248	33	281
5. Duster	8	–	8

Animal operated implements :–

1. Wooden plough	15019	11535	26554
2. Steel plough–			
(i) Soil stiffing	385	52	437
(ii) Soil turning	159	20	179
(iii) Disc. harrow	48	3	51

(iv)	Seed-*cum* fertilizer drill	3	–	3
(v)	Seed drill	32	–	32
(vi)	Levelling karah (levelled)	4042	100	4142
(vii)	Wetland puddler	7422	39	7461
(viii)	01 pad Thrasher	17	–	17
(ix)	Animal cart	1641	93	1734
(x)	Sugarcane crusher	1	–	1
Plant Protection equipment :-				
(i)	Power operated sprayer duster	9	–	9
Power and tractor operated implements :-				
(i)	Mould board plough	1	–	1
(ii)	Disc. harrow	1	–	1
(iii)	Trailor	8	–	8

* Chief Engineer (Agricultural Engineering) Madras, Report dated 11 August 1986.

Kanniyakumari Agro Engineering and Service Cooperative Society Limited :

The Kanniyakumari Agro Engineering and Service Co-operative Society was formed in 1981 by amalgamating the Agasthiswaram Agro Service Centre and Thovalai Agro Service Centre. The area of operation of the society is confined to the revenue villages of Kanniyakumari district. (It is an affiliated Society of the Tamil Nadu Agro Engineering & Service Cooperative Federation Ltd.) The Society has 355 members with a paid up share capital of Rs.17,330/- with a share value of Rs. 10/- each.

Objectives of the Society are as follows:-[38]

1. To service and repair agricultural machineries like tractors, pumpsets, electrical equipments, oil engine pumpsets, drills, bull-dozers etc.;

2. To hire tractors and other agricultural machinery required by the members ;

3. To manufacture, acquire, sell or to serve as agents for the acquisition of any agricultural machinery or equipment in favour of the society ;

4. To offer technical services relating to agriculture including soil testing etc;

5. To carry out any work relating to irrigation, development of land, water management, etc. and

6. To serve as stockists and sell petrol, diesel, lubricants etc.

Seed Certification in Kanniyakumari district : The department of Seed Certification is headed by the Director of Seed Certification Coimbatore who is having jurisdiction all over the State. Under his administration and disciplinary control, one Seed Certification Officer is working in Nagercoil who is in charge of the entire Kanniyakumari district. He is under the supervisory control of the Asst. Director of Seed Certification, Tirunelveli. The Government are the sole seed producing agency in the district and there are no private seed producers. There are two seed producing centres manned by an Asst.Director of Agriculture with qualified complementary field staff.

Paddy and pulses seeds are produced in these seed centres. Among paddy TKM9, ponni, IR 20 and savithri are the strains. While, pulses T9, ADT-2, blackgram are the major varieties produced. Apart from these two seed centres, there is one state seed farm is situated at Thirupathisaram which mainly produces foundation seeds. This seed farm is under the control of an Agricultural officer (Farm management).

Seed Processing Unit : A seed processing unit is functioning in the state seed farm, Thirupathisaram. The Director of Seed Certification having recognised this processing unit has assigned unit No.40. Hitherto the processing operation was carried on with a small qualitex machine and now a high capacity machine has been installed. The seed farm ryots are the clients for producing the seeds in various places of the district.

The details of the area registered under certification from 1981–82 to 1987-88 under paddy and pulses are given below in table – I.

Particulars of quantity of seeds processed and seeds certified under paddy and pulses from 1981-82 to 1987-88 are furnished in tables II and III respectively.

The details of seed samples tested from 1983–84 to 1988–89 are given in table IV.

TABLE - I

(a) Area registered under certification in ha. from 1981–82

Sl. No.	Crop	1981-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Paddy	41.78	94.48	79.62	144.73	104.45	68.57	61.20
2	Pulses	3.98	35.64	8.56	58.80	61.80	21.19	17.60
	Total	45.76	130.12	88.18	203.53	166.25	89.76	78.00

TABLE – II

b) Quantity of seeds processed in metric tonnes

Sl. No.	Crop	1981-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Paddy	120.900	200.738	182.322	301.757	205.369	189.839	118.816
2	Pulses	0.984	2.318	1.635	1.105	3.260	1.297	2.415
	Total	121.884	203.056	183.957	302.862	208.629	191.136	121.231

TABLE – III

Quantity of seeds certified in metric tonnes[39]

Sl. No. (1)	Crop (2)	1981-82 (3)	82-83 (4)	83-84 (5)	84-85 (6)	85-86 (7)	86-87 (8)	87-88 (9)
1	Paddy	117.300	143.630	137.274	260.339	201.690	201.006	146.811
2	Pulses	0.984	–	1.635	1.105	2.525	1.292	1.276
	Total	118.284	143.630	138.909	261.444	204.215	202.298	148.087

TABLE – IV

Seeds Testing Laboratory[40]

Number of seed samples tested (Kanniyakumari district)

Category Year (1)	Service sample (2)	Official Sample (3)
1983-84	328	Not available
1984-85	300	137
1985-86	165	337
1986-87	79	302
1987-88	18	443
1988-89 (till date)	1	128

Details of seeds produced and distributed in the district[41]

Year	***Quantity*** (IN TONNES)
1974-75	169.449
1975-76	171.068
1976-77	280.105
1977-78	211.725
1978-79	158.020
1979-80	165.917
1980-81	179.000
1981-82	178.000
1982-83	161.609
1983-84	350.000
1984-85	223.000
1985-86	284.392

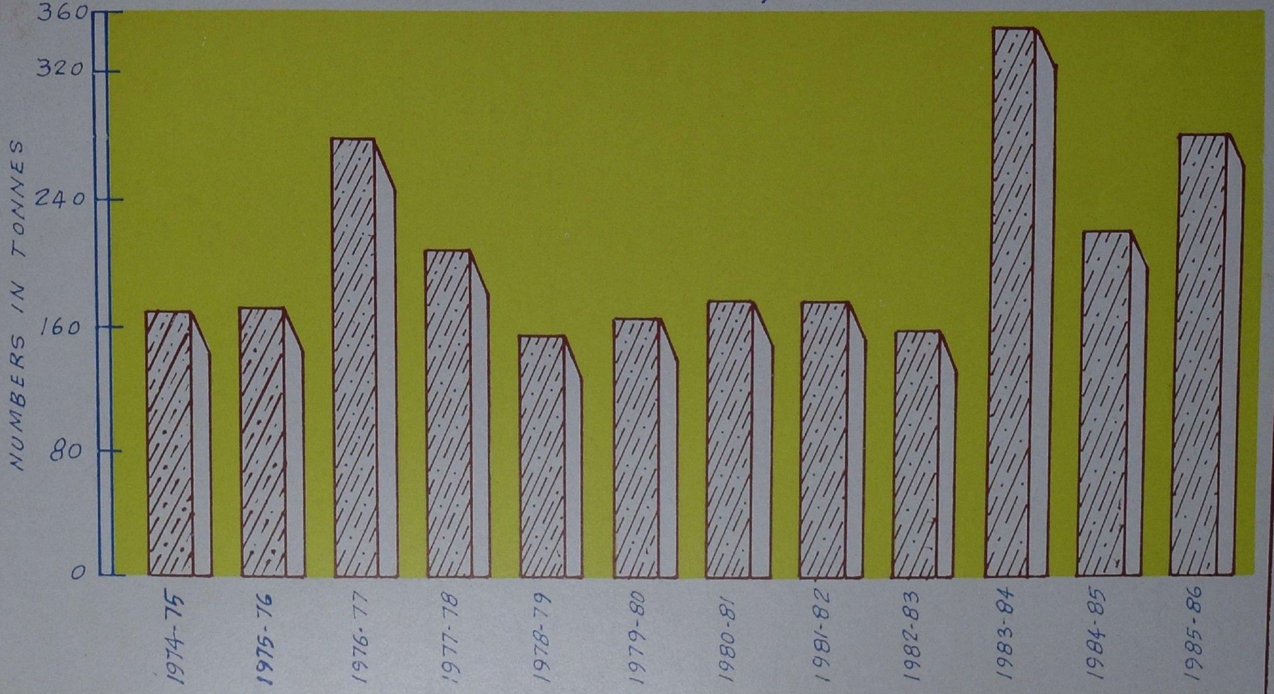
Fertilization of Crops :[42] Plants require nourishment for growth and to get flourished. So, fertilization of crops is the key to increase production. Manures and fertilizers are a 'must' for agriculture just as the raw materials for industry. Additional agricultural production deserves and depends upon utilisation of the requisite quantities of plant nutrients into the soil in one form or the other.

In order to replace the loss caused due to farming operations, land requires nitrogen, phosphates, potash etc. Exact manurial requirement depends on the type of soil, crop quantity of rainfall etc. The following table shows the distribution of fertilizers to farmers from 1974-75 to 1983-84, in the district.

Year	*Nitrate (N)*	*Phosphate (P)*	*Potash (K)*
1974-75	2878.017	1363.392	897.655
1975-76	5012.000	1680.000	1510.000
1976-77	3617.000	1580.000	1497.000
1977-78	3151.000	1560.000	1507.000
1978-79	2901.000	1091.000	1194.000
1979-80	3583.000	1277.000	1288.000
1980-81	3488.000	1201.000	1201.000
1981-82	3965.000	1276.000	1300.000
1982-83	5286.000	1708.000	1516.000
1983-84	4083.000	1599.000	1633.000

QUANTUM OF SEEDS PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED

(1974-75 TO 1985-86)



Particulars of average consumption of NPK/ha. are tabulated below :[43]

(Consumption of NPK average per hectare)

Year (1)	*Nitrate* (N) (2)	*Phosphate* (P) (3)	*Potash* (K) (4)
1974-75	32.5	15.0	10.0
1975-76	55.0	20.0	17.5
1976-77	51.8	22.50	12.5
1977-78	38.8	19.20	18.5
1978-79	36.8	13.4	14.7
1979-80	44.1	15.7	15.8
1980-81	42.9	14.7	14.7
1981-82	48.8	15.7	16.0
1982-83	65.10	21.0	18.6
1983-84	50.2	19.7	20.1

This table shows the quantity of fertilizers distributed to agriculturists in Kanniyakumari district from 1975-76 to 1985-86.[44]

		Quantity (In M.Tonnes)	
Year (1)	*Nitrate (N)* (2)	*Phosphate (P)* (3)	*Potash (K)* (4)
1975-76	5012.000	1680.000	1510.000
1976-77	3671.000	1580.000	1497.000
1977-78	3151.000	1560.000	1507.000
1978-79	2991.000	1091.000	1194.000
1979-80	3583.000	1277.000	1288.000
1980-81	3488.000	1201.000	1201.000
1981-82	3965.000	1276.000	1300.000
1982-83	5286.000	1708.000	1516.000
1983-84	4083.000	1802.000	1633.000

1.	2.	3.	4.
1984-85	4302.000	1802.000	1903.000
1985-86	4733.000	1757.000	2080.000

Agricultural diseases : Insects, plant diseases, and seeds differ in their adverse effect on crops, which result in reduced yield and impaired quality. The quality of the crop is impaired because of the fact that the grains got shrivelled. Discoloured fruits and vegetables get changed contaminants from the pests.

The quantum of plant protection chemicals distributed in the district from 1974-75 to 1983-84 is shown in the table below :–

Year (1)	*Dust form* (M. TONNES) (2)	*Liquid form* (LITS.) (3)
1974-75	52.0	8377.7
1975-76	107.9	8675.1
1976-77	43.8	2657.1
1977-78	48.68	3441.4
1978-79	68.22	2337.0
1979-80	74.5	2604.3
1980-81	150.6	2187.7
1981-82	206.8	2415.1
1982-83	142.163	2132.200
1983-84	538.644	8843.500

Normally occurrences of pest and diseases are very low in the first crop season, in the field, where paddy is cultivated in semi-dry as well as wet transplanted conditions. However, incidence of thrips, stemborer, whorl maggot are noticed in certain places of Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks even in the first crop season. Incidence of blast diseases is also noticed in Vilavancode taluk.

During the second crop season, heavy incidence, of stemborer and leaf folder are noticed in almost all paddy growing areas. Incidence of blast, helminthosporium, and sheathrot are noticed mostly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, where the agro-climatic conditions favours mostly the occurrence of the diseases.

With regard to control measures, pesticides such as parathion, endosulphan, ekalux are sprayed for the control of pests, and hinoson, and dithane are sprayed against fungal disease. The agricultural extension centres functioning throughout the district cater to the needs of the farmers by supplying the required plant protection chemicals.

Agricultural Centres :

The following are the agricultural centres in the district :–

1.	State Seed Farm	–	Thirupathisaram
2.	Model Orchard	–	Kanniyakumari
3.	Pepper Nursery	–	Pechipparai
4.	Pine Apple Nursery	–	Pechipparai
5.	Paddy Experimental Research Station	–	Thirupathisaram

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION THIRUPATHISARAM

The Agricultural Research Station at Thirupathisaram was started in the year 1976 and it was under the control of the Director of Agriculture, till 31 March 1981. On April 1, 1981, the Station was merged with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The farm is located seven kilometres away form Nagercoil towards east. The total area of the farm is 7.15 ha.

Soil : The soil type is clay loam. The p^H of the soil varies from 7.5 to 7.9. The available nitrogen is low. The available phosphate and potash are medium.

Climate : The annual average rainfall is 745 mm. The maximum atmospheric temperature ranges from 25^0 to 30^0. The relative humidity varies from 50 to 100 per cent.

Crops : The rice is the only crop cultivated in the first season (Kannipoo) and the second season (kumbapoo). In summer pulses are raised in rice fallows. Coconut is cultivated under rainfed condtion.

Schemes in operation :

1. Scheme for the establishment of agricultural research station at Thirupathisaram.
2. National Agricultural Research Project for strengthening and establishment of a Regional Research Station at Pechipparai and Sub-station at Thirupathisaram.
3. Coconut wilt scheme.

Scheme Completed : rice white tip nematode scheme

Achievements :

A. Crop improvement–

I. Rice varieties released –

(1) TPS 1.

Percentage	:	IR8/kattisamba
Duration	:	110-115 days
Season	:	kannipoo (kar)
Characters	:	Red bold rice.Suitable for direct and transplanted conditions. Drought tolerant.
year of release	:	1985

(2) TPS.2

Percentage	:	IR.26/Co.40
Duration	:	125 to 130 days
Season	:	kumbappoo(pishanam)
Characters	:	White bold rice. Non shedding due to wind
year of release	:	1987

PROMISING CULTURES

(a) Short term duration :

(i) Semi dry condition:-

AS 25370

Percentage	:	asd.1/iron.297
Duration	:	110 days
Characters	:	medium slender grain with white rice

AS.26556

Percentage	:	(iet. 5233/ir.2153-26—3-5-2)
Duration	:	105 days
Characters	:	Red rice-drought tolerant

(ii) Wet condition (AS. 25370)

Percentage	:	ASD.1/IRON.297
Duration	:	110 days
characters	:	medium slender grain with white rice.

(b) Medium duration (AS.37343)

Percentage	:	ad.14185/ir.50
Duration	:	120 days
Rice	:	White

AS. 38559

Percentage	:	ir.36/ asd.1.
Duration	:	120 days
Rice	:	White

C) Long duration TP.4121

Percentage	:	CO.25 X CO.40
Duration	:	160-165 days

(d) 'Ela' Cultivation

Rice CR. 1009 (ponmani)

IET.5656 and Co.42 are found promising.

B. Crop management :– 1. Weed control in semi-dry rice :– Butachlor at 2 kg. ai/ha is applied on 8th day of sowing when sufficient soil moisture is available and it controls all germinating weeds.

2. Weed control in transplanted rice :– Butachlor at 1 Kg ai/ha is applied within 3 to 5 days after transplantation.

3. Seed rate and fertilizer for semi-dry rice :– A seed rate of 100 kg/ha. and a fertilizer dose of 75 N.45 P_2O_5 60 K_2 kg./ha. was found optimum for rice TPS.1.

4. Optimum plant population and fertilizers for transplanted rice :

A plant population of 50 plant per sq.m. by adopting a spacing of 20 X 10 cm and a fertilizer dose of 100 N 25 P_2O_5 50 K_2O kg per ha. was found optimum for rice TPS. 2.

5. Split application of nitrogen for rice CR.1009 (Ponmani) splits at basal, tillering, panicle initiation and earhead emergence for rice CR.1009 (ponmani).

C. Crop Protection–Nematology : Recommendations for prevention and control of white tip nematode disease in rice.

(i) Burning of rice stubbles and crop residues in the field to destroy the inoculum present.

(ii) Sun drying of seeds for 12 hours over two days between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for seed disinfestation.

(iii) If high humidity and wet condition prevails at tillering stage, prophylactic spraying with chlorpyriphos 20 ec at 1.25 1/ha. or

monocrotophos 36 EC at 500 ml/ha. or quinalphos 25 EC at 1 1/ ha. is done.

(iv) Cultivation of resistant varieties like TPS.1 and TPS.2

Pest Surveillance : During the kumbapoo season (pishanam) stemborer leaf roller earhead bug and brown plant hopper were recorded above economic threshold level in paddy. Damage due to rat was so noticed. Blast disease at Grade III to V were found to affect the paddy crop.

II Coconut : Management of Thanjavur wilt disease. Epidemiological studies of Thanjavur wilt diseases indicated that there was an increase in the total number of bleeding patches every year, correspondingly the height of the bleeding patches also progressed upwards in the palm. The disease was moderate from August to November. Suitable control measures are adopted when the disease incidence is low.

When the palms are in the early stage of infection chemotherapy which is more effective is applied. Application of neem cake or in combination with fungicides like Carbendzin or carboxin is effective in containing the disease. This method is also adopted as and when there is necessity. Among the various methods of applications studied viz., soil drenching, stem injection and root feeding method appears to be promising.

Pattern of spread of root (wilt) disease : The studies on the pattern of spread of root (wilt) disease indicated that there was no regular pattern of spread of disease. It takes more than two years for the disease to reach the moderate stage, and five years to reach the advanced stage from the year of acquiring infection. The yield loss due to root (wilt) ranges from 57.3 per cent to 77.2 per cent

Research and Extension Linkages : Linkages with extension agencies are established through periodical meetings of T & V zonal workshops and Regional Advisory Committee, 'Organisation of farmers' day, and meeting farm advisory committee to solve the local field problems by conducting on-farm trials on manuring banana,. evaluation of rice cultures for blast, control of wilt diseases in coconut etc. and by

periodical visit of the extension functionaries and farmers to the research station in order to study the on-going research.

Visitors to the research stations : 1. Members of the World Bank team visited the agricultural research station to review the work of National Agricultural Research Project, as per the report of the Associate Professor and Head of Agricultural Research Station, dated 20 April 1988.

2. Some scientists from Vietnam visited the station to study the incidence of blast disease in rice in 1988.

State Seed Farm - Thirupathisaram : This is mainly functioning to have a large supply of quality foundation and certified seeds multiplied departmentally under the direct control and management of the technical staff and the same is distributed through Block level for mass multiplication by private seed farm ryots. This is one of the important planned schemes under the Five Year plan eligible for Central grant.

The State Seed Farm,Thirupathisaram is one of the eldest state seed farms in the entire Tamil Nadu. It was started in the year 1914 by the erstwhile Travancore State and was handed over to Tamil Nadu Government when Kanniyakumari district was attached to Tamil Nadu in the year 1956.

Area

1.	Total area of farm	:	59.6 acre.
	Wet land	:	50.42 acre.
	Roads, buildings and threshing	:	8.91 acre
	floor for agricultural school	:	0.30 acre.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT –

1.	Cost of land	Rs.	353000
2.	Cost of trees, wells	Rs.	28000
3.	Cost of building	Rs.	165000
4.	Others	Rs.	35000

STAFF PATTERN –

Agricultural Officer	:	1
Asst. Agricultural Officer	:	1
Field Demonstration Officer	:	2
Watchmen	:	2

ACHIEVEMENT –

Area cultivated and production details for 10 years[45]

Year	*Area cultivated (Ac)*	*seed production* (M. TONNES)
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*
1980-81	104.79	106.310
1981-82	104.83	118.130
1982-83	104.87	128.120
1983-84	104.08	100.227
1984-85	100.80	109.776
1985-86	99.79	128.158
1986-87	60.67	85.075
1987-88	60.11	80.128

Cropping efficiency –

Year	*Area cultivated*			*Total*	*Cropping efficiency*
	Paddy	*Pulses*	*Green manure*		
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
1981-82	104.83	22.41	..	127.24	239%
1982-83	104.87	25.76	..	130.63	245%
1983-84	105.78	43.84	..	149.62	283%
1984-85	100.84	39.75	..	140.59	278%
1985-86	98.79	12.86	14.69	126.34	255%
1986-87	60.67	..	..	60.67	120%
1987-88	60.11	..	..	60.11	119%

This farm is in the forefront in testing new paddy varieties and suggest whether a particular variety is suitable for the tract. Important adaptive research trials, fertilizer trials, weedicide trials are also laid out in the farm and the yield results of these trials are analysed with the district trial results.

This state seed farm is entrusted with the work of Seed Processing of the produce of the seed farm ryots in addition to the processing of its own paddy seeds. About 350 MT. of paddy seeds are processed in a year in the farm.

Soil Testing Laboratory, Nagercoil : The Soil Testing Laboratory, Nagercoil commenced its multifarious activities from 15 June 1973. The scheme was originally sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1328, Agriculture, dated 29 May 1973 and it is being continued every year. The scheme is now being operated under the head of one Assistant Soil Chemist.

Objective of the scheme :

1. To analyse soil samples collected from farmers' holdings and give suitable fertilizer recommendations for various crops to get maximum yield with minimum input ;

2. To analyse irrigation water samples collected from farmers' holdings and to find out their suitability or otherwise for irrigation purposes and to suggest suitable recommendations for raising various crops ;

3. To extend suitable reclamatory measures for problem soils like acidic, alkaline and saline in nature ;

4. To conduct soil test crop response correlation and manurial trials to fix specified fertiliser recommendations ; and

5. To popularise the soil testing service among the farming community and make them realise its usefulness.

Working of the scheme :

The scheme is being implemented for the past 14 years.

Year wise achievement of analysis of samples[46]

Year	*Target*	*Achievement*
1973-74	..	5304
1974-75	12000	12406
1975-76	12000	11790
1976-77	12000	10503
1977-78	12000	12546
1978-79	12000	12644
1979-80	12000	12703
1980-81	12000	14273
1981-82	12000	15405
1982-83	10800	10554
1983-84	7200	8631
1984-85	12000	12057
1985-86	12000	12273
1986-87	12000	12172
1987-88	12000	12256

The laboratory in general achieved the targets in full. The samples received from the farmers fields were based on the analytical results, suitable site, specific situation and fertiliser recommendations were given to farmers for various crops of their choices. For involving soil problems if any, suitable ameliorative measures are also being suggested. Consultancy services are being offered by the laboratory.

Besides this, a Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory is also functioning in this district headed by an Assistant Soil Chemist from 1980. Objective of the lab is to analyse soil samples received from the farmers on the spot itself and the results are handed over to the farmers then and there.

Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory-Year wise achievement of analysis of samples :–

Year	*Target*	*Achievement*
1980-81	6000	2614
1981-82	6000	4556
1982-83	11200	8746
1983-84	10800	11183
1984-85	18000	18038
1985-86	18000	18151
1986-87	18000	15375
1987-88	18000	18362

Research Activities : Besides analysing the soil samples, the laboratory extends its wing to research also by taking up research trials from 1974-75 onwards on various crops like, paddy, coconut, tapioca. The research trials were conducted to evolve suitable fertilizer as well as ameliorative recommendations to farmers for various constraints faced by the farmers.

Research trials were also being taken up every year taking into consideration of the various field problems, soil constraints, to study and evolve suitable ameliorative measures to overcome the problems and constraints. In toto this laboratory ever since its inception, in addition to the routine activities of analysing soil samples, has undertaken about 53 research trials on community of Kanniyakumari district.

Follow up studies : Soil test follow up studies were also undertaken by the laboratory. Various farmers from various villages covering all the taluks of Kanniyakumari district were contacted and soil samples collected from their fieids were analysed and manurial recommendations were given based on the soil fertility status of their fields for adoption. The follow up studies reveal that generally the percentage of adoption is encouraging. The main objective of the study is to involve farmers in the soil test activities, and to apprise them of the usefulness of soil testing.

Reclamation of acid and alkali soils : Out of 60,000 acres of rice cultivation in Kanniyakumari district from the samples received and tested by the laboratory, about 10,000 acres of land are acidic in reaction. Based on the analytical results, it was identified that majority of the lands in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks and the villages of Chiramadam, Veeranarayanamangalam. Thittivilai and Therisanamcope of Agastiswaram taluk fall under acidic condition. The average requirement of lime required to get increased yield of Rice is about 200 kgs/acre (Total of 5 continuous crops) @ 400 kgs/crop/acre. The approximate cost of lime is Rs.600/- per tonne. Based on these findings from the data collected for the research trials conducted by the laboratory, suitable recommendations are given for ameliorating the acid soils of Kanniyakumari district.

Saline Alkali soils : As far saline soils are concerned, the area under the above said soil is negligible. But alkali soils are found in small pockets of Shenbagaramanpudur of Thovalai taluk and Agastiswaram taluk. The samples received from such places are analysed and based on the analysed data, suitable quantity of gypsum is being recommended as ameliorative.

Special Work : The laboratory with the assistance of soil survey and land use organisation of Palayamkottai, prepared a soil brochure and soil atlas of Kanniyakumari district. The soil atlas contains valuable information of the soil fertility status of Kanniyakumari district. It serves as a base for scientists for knowing the soil fertility status of Kanniyakumari district.[47]

Water samples : Besides, water samples are also analysed and the quality of water is also suggested.

Oilseeds : In Kanniyakumari district, the coconut and groundnut are the major cultivated oilseed crops. To some extent, gingelly is grown in rice fallows. To augment the production of oilseeds various schemes are implemented by Department of Oilseeds. The Kanniyakumari district is a unit of the Tirunelveli Oilseeds Region, which is headed by a Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture (Oilseeds) stationed at Tirunelveli.

In Kanniyakumari district, the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Oilseeds), Nagercoil is implementing the various schemes of the oilseeds department.

Schemes under Implementation :

1. Increasing the production of oilseeds.
2. Increasing the production of coconut in Kanniyakumari district.
3. Crash Programme for coconut development.
4. Comprehensive coconut development scheme.
5. Scheme for the control of black headed caterpillar in coconut.
6. Eradication of Kerala root wilt in Kanniyakumari district.
7 Eradication of Thanjavur wilt scheme.
8. Scheme for the control of rhinocerous beetle.
9. Schemes financed by the Coconut Development Board.

The object of this scheme and the various concessions extended to the farmers are narrated below.

1. Increasing the production of oilseeds : The object of the scheme is to increase the production of oil seeds like groundnut, sunflower and gingelly. The farmers are supplied with good quality seeds through the Agricultural Extension Centres. The good quality seeds are produced in the farmers holdings, by organising seed farms and procuring the quality seeds from the farmers, after sample test and scrutiny.

The farmers are educated for the adoption of improved package of practices. To help the farmers, the method demonstrations are conducted. In order to encourage the farmers, the inputs like seeds, fertilizers and plant protection chemicals are supplied, for conducting minikit demonstrations.

2. Integrated and comprehensive scheme : The object of the scheme is to increase the yield of coconut on an average of 5 nuts per

tree over and above the base year, i.e. 1978. The farmers are educated to apply the recommended doses of fertilisers and to follow the plant protection measures recommended.

3. Intensive Coconut Development Scheme : The farmers are recommended to adopt the recommended package of practices like raising green manure, applying chemical fertilisers and following the recommended plant protection measures.

4. Biological control of Black Caterpillar : The control of black headed caterpillar with the available chemicals is not so good as the biological control measures. For the biological control the parasites namely 'bethalids', 'broconids' and 'bulophids' are produced at the Parasite Breeding Station, Nagercoil and released in the coconut gardens which are affected by the pest, i.e. the black headed caterpillar. For the release of parasites, Rs. 25/- per hectare is collected as service charges.

5. Eradication of Kerala Root wilt in Kanniyakumari District : The coconut is affected by a disease called "Kerala root wilt disease". In order to control the spread of the disease, the affected coconut palms are duly identified and destroyed. The farmers are granted a sum of Rs.75/- per tree for the removal of affected trees.

The T × D hybrid coconut seedlings are supplied at a subsidised rate. The fertilizers worth Rs.2 per tree are also supplied to them free of cost.

6. Eradication of Thanjavur Wilt : With a view to guard the coconut trees which are affected by Thanjavur wilt, copper sulphate is supplied at 50 per cent cost to the farmers, through the Agricultural Extension Centres.

7. Biological control of Rhinocerous beetle : The rhinocerous beetle, is one of the serious and important pests which affects the coconut. It has a wide distribution and persistent occurrence in all coconut growing areas in India. The adult beetles cause severe damage to coconut palms by feeding on tender fronds and crown, resulting in the stunting of trees. The damage to spathe, results in loss of nuts. Young seedlings are sometimes killed outright. Since the insect breeds in the farmyard manure and fallen coconut trees, the control measures are undertaken at the breeding sites as well as on the trees. The control measures adopted against grubs and adults in coconut groves are costly,tedious and have to be repeated. Hence, an easy alternate method, utilising a safe and

specific fungus namely, metarhizium anisopliac for the control of rhinocerous beetle is implemented in Kanniyakumari district. The fungus is supplied free of cost to the farmers.

8. Schemes financed by the Coconut Develoment Board : The Coconut Develoment Board, Government of India, is assisting the coconut groves. A subsidy of Rs.3000/- per ha. is granted to the farmers who bring new area under coconut plantation. Similarly, in order to overcome the drought, irrigation subsidy of Rs.1000/- is granted for the purchase of oil engine and electric motor.

Special Programme for Coconut Development in drought affected areas :

Under this scheme, sprinkler drip units are supplied at subsidised cost. The pattern of subsidy is Rs.1300/- per unit of 0.5 ha., subject to a maximum of Rs.10,000/- per farmer.

Under Government of India assisted scheme, drip/sprinkler units are to be supplied at subsidised rate. The rate of subsidy to the small farmer ranges from Rs.1500/- to Rs. 3375/-. For marginal farmers, the minimum rate of subsidy is Rs.2000/- and the maximum is Rs.4500/-. For SC and ST farmers, the minimum rate of susbidy is Rs.3000/- and the maximum is Rs.6750/-

Community System (50 per cent of the cost) :

A target of 10 units has been allotted to Kanniyakumari district, with a financial target of Rs.50,000/- for the year 1988-89.

Area of oilseeds :[48]

Area of Coconut	:	17258 ha.
Normal area of groundnut	:	1000 ha.

During 1987-88 an extent of 683 ha. have been cultivated with groundnut.

Tall x Dwarf Scheme (T x D Scheme) :

This scheme has been sanctioned by Agriculture department on 15 March 1980 and the scheme is functioning with effect from

9 September 1980. Under the control of one Assistant Director of Agriculture, the field Staff of this scheme were given training about crossing techniques at Pattukkottai and the work started in Kanniyakumari district from 1-9-80 in the following centres :–

(1) Agasthiswaram (2) Puthalam (3) Rajakkamangalam (4) Kottumangalam

Each centre consists of one Agricultural Officer, one Asst. Agricultural Officer and about 11 trained skilled labourers.

Scheme Work : The main aim is to produce hybrid coconut seedling. i.e. Tall x Dwarf. The officials of the Seed Production centres have to inspect the coconut gardens. Only disease free, high yielding tall coconut trees have to be selected. These selected trees are treated as motherplants. The Dwarf coconut trees are treated as male plants for the purpose of collection of pollen. Collected pollen has to be dusted on the female flowers of the tall (mother) coconut trees, at the approximate time. The coconut seeds produced by this artificial method come to harvest at the 11th month. These hybrid coconut seeds raised in the nursery are produced as Tall X Dwarf hybrid coconut seedlings.

Coconut Nurseries : This Nursery was started on 1 September 1981 at Manavalakurichy. The total area of nursery is 2.03 ha. T × D coconut nuts are transplanted from the sub centre to T × D nursery for raising T × D coconut seedlings.

Tall Coconut Nursery : The Government coconut nursery at Puthalam is playing a vital role in production of quality tall coconut seedlings to keep pace with the growing requirement of both Kanniyakumari district and neighbouring districts. This nursery was started in 1964. Total area covered by this nursery is 1.97 ha.[49]

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animal Husbandry[50], is a branch of agriculture that deals with the production and care of livestock and poultry in order to increase the yield of such products as milk, meat, eggs, or wool.

Present-day animal husbandry relies on scientific methods based on modern agricultural research. Such methods include protecting the

animals from disease, and feeding the animals carefully with selected food. In addition, the breeding of animals is scientifically controlled by means of techniques such as selective breeding, cross breeding, artificial insemination etc.

Animal Husbandry in Kanniyakumari district : The Animal Husbandry activities in Kanniyakumari district has been implemented by the Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tirunelveli- Kanniyakumari district. Livestock Census was undertaken and the census figures are mentioned in table-1. Qualitative improvement of indigenous cattle by upgrading through artificial insemination, using superior bulls of exotic breeds has been implemented by Key Village schemes. There is one Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry incharge of three Key Village blocks with 30 sub-centres under his control, as mentioned in table-2. In these Key Village blocks, Friesian bulls, and Murrah bulls are maintained to upgrade the local white cattle and black cattle respectively.

There is one clinician centre at Nagercoil to cater to the needs of local livestock health cover. There are two Assistant Directors of Animal Husbandry whose offices are located one at Nagercoil and another at Thuckalay, as in table 3. They come under the control of Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tirunelveli. These Assistant Directors of Animal Husbandry look after all the Animal Husbandry activities in their respective jurisidiction. They are having jurisdiction over the veterinary hospitals, veterinary dispensaries and, the mobile unit as mentioned in table 3, to cater to the needs of the livestock health cover in their jurisdiction. There is one poultry extension centre at Kottaram. To eradicate rinderpest among the livestock, one disease free zone has been established at Nagercoil. One rinderpest district squad has been established at Nagercoil to undertake rinderpest preventive vaccination of susceptible livestock-like, cattles, sheep, goat etc., so that large scale immunity can be maintained in the district. A Rinderpest checkpost at Kavalkinaru has been established to carry out Rinderpest vaccination of livestock moving into and going out of the State, with a view to prevent prevalence of the disease from the neighbouring States by the unprotected animals. The details of rinderpest vaccination done and also the work done in key village centres and clinician centres are furnished in table- 4.

Western Ghat Development Programme has been in operation in this district. Fodder slips and seeds at half cost are given under this programme, to the beneficiaries, who are in possession and maintenance of cattle.

The estimated milk and egg production in this district, during the year 1984-85 is as follows:-

Milk Production	:	5,16,25,350 kg.
Egg production	:	2,57,78,514 nos.

The meat production during 1985-86 was 1,99,362 kg. (approximate).

TABLE – I

Livestock census in Kanniyakumari district as on 15 July 1982.

1. Total livestock	:	202615
2. Cattle	:	103446
3. Buffaloes	:	22886
4. Sheep	:	4014
5. Goats	:	43351
6. Pigs	:	12476
7. Horses and ponies	:	13
8. Mules	:	8
9. Donkeys	:	329
10. Domestic Dogs	:	16092

1. Total cattle and buffaloes	:	126332
2. Male	:	46409
3. Female	:	79923
4. Total cattle	:	103446
5. Male	:	31953
6. Female	:	71493

TABLE – I Contd.
Total Cattle (Male)

(1)	Cattle (2)	*Cattle exotic* (3)	*Cattle Native pure* (4)	*Cross breed* (5)	*Cattle Indigen-ous* (6)
1. Under 1 Year	8370	5	611	2412	5342
2. 1 to 2 1/2 Years	4793	7	493	1006	3287
3. Over 2 1/2 Years –					
(i) Castrated	16603	1	3087	793	12722
(ii) Non-Castrated	2187	28	605	285	1269
4. Total males	31953	41	4796	4496	22620

Total cattle (Females)

1. Under 1 year	14624	8	1487	4056	9073
2. 1 to 2 1/2 years	11521	34	1301	2907	7279
3. **Over 2 1/2 years –**					
(I) In Milk	26432	16	2704	7323	16389
(ii) Dry	10269	15	1256	2623	6375
(iii) Not calved even once	8647	16	678	2113	5840
4. Total females	71493	89	7426	19022	44956

TABLE-2

I. Key village block

1. Kuzhithurai
2. Kottaram
3. Monday Market

II. Key village sub–centres

1. Kuzhithurai
2. Sirathur

3. Kaliyakkavilai
4. Kadaiyal
5. Arumanai
6. Chemmangala
7. Poovancode
8. Kulasekaram
9. Thiruvattar
10. Kattathurai
11. Kumaresapuram
12. Kottaram
13. Alagappapuram
14. Myladi
15. Thamaraikulam
16. Kulasekarampudur
17. Nallur
18. Parakkai
19. Soorankudi
20. Rajakkamangalam
21. Osaravillai
22. Monday Market
23. Friday market
24. Paraseri
25. Killiyoor
26. Thikkanancode
27. Manavalakurichi
28. Munchirai
29. Pudukkadai
30. Kalkulam

TABLE-3

I. Assistant director of animal husbandry

1. Nagercoil
2. Thuckalay

II. Veterinary hospital

1. Thuckalay
2. Kuzhithurai

III. Veterinary dispensary

1. Chemmangala
2. Arumanai
3. Kattathurai
4. Boothapandi
5. Aralvoimozhi
6. Nallur
7. Rajakkamangalam
8. Kottaram
9. Parakkai
10. Kurunthencode
11. Thiruvattar
12. Kulasekaram
13. Mathukummal
14. Monday market

IV . Mobile unit

Nagercoil

TABLE - 4

I. Rinderpest vaccination done : 5144063

II. Key village centres work done

A.I (1)	Done (2)	A.I. verified (3)	Calves born (4)	Cases treated (5)	Castration done (6)	Vaccination done (7)
W.c.	55854	52873	14131	43524	2022	130343
B.c.	1950	2084	482			
	57804	54957	14613			

III. Work done particulars of the clinician centre Nagercoil (1985-86)

1. Cases treated	:	21461
2. Vaccination done	:	5282
3. Deworming done	:	1314
4. Inpatients	:	64
5. Clinical materials examined	:	2524
6. Castrations done	:	21
7. Operations done	:	559
8. Beneficiaries	:	10826

W.c. - White cattle
B.c. - Black cattle
A.I. - Artificial Insemination

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Federation (TNCMPF) : Tamil Nadu has adopted a three-tier co-operative structure at the village level, the district level and the State level- aimed at integrating the major functions of dairy industry, by undertaking procurement, processing and marketing of milk and its products. The arrangement provides a vital link

between the rural producer and the urban consumer, and ensures market support to the dairy farmer.

The economy of district is predominantly agrarian. This is the only district in Tamil Nadu where rubber is cultivated. This district has rich soil resources also. The important subsidiary activity carried on by the cultivators and the agricultural labourers is dairying.

The Government of Tamil Nadu introduce the Amul pattern in this district from 1 January 1981. With the massive efforts of the Dairy Development Department, the milk, production in Kanniyakumari district has increased by three fold within a short span of 5 years. Kanniyakumari district is not covered under the operation flood scheme. There are 82 revenue villages in this district and 99 per cent of the villages are covered by the milk producers' co-operative societies. There are 89 Milk producers societies in this district, with 52,000 members. All the societies in the district, produce on an average 41,725 litres of milk per day. About 7780 families which include 2500 families of Scheduled Castes, are benefited by these societies.

According to the latest census, the cattle population in this district is as follows :-

		Male	*Female*
Cow	:	31, 953	71, 488
Buffaloes	:	14,457	8,430

Due to the absence of nutritious feeding, the quality of milk in terms of fat and SNF is poor.

ORGANISATION OF MILK PRODUCERS CO-OP. SOCIETIES : For the organisation of Amul type of Societies, the Government have formed a milk procurement team in 1980 headed by an Assistant Dairy Officer. This team scrutinises the applications received from the villagers for the Deputy Registrar (Dairying), for the registration of societies.

MOBILE VETERINARY UNIT : In order to give free medical aid to the animals of the members of the milk producers' societies, a Mobile Veterinary Unit of the Government is functioning in liaison with the District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union. This mobile unit visits some fixed societies, on five routes once a week.

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION Limited : This Union was registered on 25 January 1949 and it started functioning on 17 February 1950. At the inception, it was registered under the name and style "Nanjil Nadu Co-operative Milk Supply Society". Then, in 1961, it was renamed as Kanniyakumari District Milk Supply Co-operative Union with its area of operation, expanding to the whole of Kanniyakumari district and Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks of erstwhile Tirunelveli district. Out of the total share capital of Rs.4,43,780/-, the Government have contributed Rs.3,50,000/ and the remaining has been paid by the feeder-member societies. The pasturisation capacity of the plant is 4000 litres per hour. The average daily production of the Union is 17,000 litres. The pasturised milk is distributed in Nagercoil town and Kanniyakumari township direct and also distributed in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks through the Milk Consumer Society. Moreover, from the inception of the Union, it is supplying milk to Trivandrum city-the capital of Kerala. The surplus milk in flush season is sent to Madurai District Co-operative Milk Producers Union for conversion of milk into butter and skim milk powder. Moreover, the union supplies milk in sachets. Sachet milk is being distributed through agents and through 14 Kanya Milk bars at various places throughout the district.

Chilling Centres : Union has set up one chilling centre at Marthandam. This centre was constructed at a cost of Rs.3,52,400/-. The capacity of the plant is 3000 litres per day. 45 societies are benefited by this centre. The milk produced from these societies, are collected by forming two milk collection routes. The average milk production is 2000 litres per day.

Products : This Union produces by-products, by utilising the surplus milk produced. The details of by-products production during the last year, are as follows :-

Flavoured milk	..	42877 bottles
Milk peda	..	8,562 bags
Cheese	..	4,094 kg.
Skimmed milk powder	..	15,000 kg.

Proposals for a Modern Dairy : There is a proposal to set up a modern dairy with a capacity of 50,000 litres per day at a convenient place in the district, under centrally sponsored sector.

FISHERIES

Chank Fishery Operation in Kanniyakumari district :[51] In G.O. Ms. No.749, (F&F) dated 26 February 1958, sanction was accorded to conduct the chank fishery operations departmentally during the year 1957-58. The operations were mainly off Enayam-Puthenthurai and Ramanthurai. Though it was expected that there would be good collection of chanks at Neerodi, Ezhudesam etc., the collection of chanks were considerably poor. Staff sanctioned for chank fishery operation, consisted of chank Fishery Overseer and two persons who worked under the immediate supervision of the Sub-Inspector of Fisheries, Enayam Puthenthurai yard. As there was delay in issuing orders to commence the operations, the collection of chank was poor during 1957-58, since the procurement of chanks was commenced only on 24 January 1958 and closed on 10 May 1958.

The chank fishery was conducted departmentally till 1959-60 and afterwards, it was leased out to private companies at a stretch for a period of 3 years. Accordingly during the year 1960-61, the chank fishing of the district was leased out to the Sangu Company, Kilakarai, erstwhile Ramnad District for a period of 3 years from 15 April 1960 at an annual rent of Rs.4786/- as per G.O. Ms. No. 1409 (Forest and Fisheries Department), dated 14 April 1960. Further, the lease was extended for a period of another 3 years with effect from 1 May 1963 at an annual rent of Rs.14239/-. As the lessee defaulted in the payment of rental, the lease was cancelled from 6th June 1969. The chank fishery was again leased out.

From the year 1970, after the closure of the lease period, the chank fishing rights were thrown open, under licensing scheme by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Accordingly the chank fishery was conducted through the licensing system, thereafter.

The details of chanks procured departmentally, are furnished hereunder :–

Year (1)	*Full sized* (2)	*Wormed* (3)	*Under sized* (4)
1957-58	2032	361	282
1958-59	2702	922	280

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1959-60	2485	735	239
1960-61	8607	244	2909
1961-62	13231	1409	4
1962-63	11488	1954	–
1963-64	5945	4556	10
1964-65	1117	3426	–

Details of licence fees collected from 1971-72 are as follows :–

Year	Amount Collected
1971-72	150.00 @ Rs.10/- per licence
1973-74	650.00
1974-75	Nil
1975-76	90.00
1976-77	40.00

However, the particulars regarding the chunks fished by the licensees are not available. Further the chunk fishery was declared as a State monopoly in 1977. No chunk was procured by the department afterwards since there was no departmental chunk fishery operations.

Lobster Fishery : The lobster fishery in Kanniyakumari district has been found to be only seasonal, commencing every year by the end of September and lasting till the end of April. Weather conditions determine the actual commencement and breeze is favourable for the fishing operations. Thus, fishing commences, when the north-east wind abates to a moderate breeze and the sea being favourable for the fishing operations and the operations conclude when the sea become rough, by the end of March, when fishing operations are hampered. The peak fishing season is between 15th December and 15th February every year.

The fishery is more or less solely constituted by the species panulirus homarus. However two more species of panulirus have also met within the catches, but they are comparatively rare. They are panulirus ornatus and panulirus versicolor.

At all the centres of the district, catamaran forms the only type of craft engaged in lobster fishing, tackles in vogue are bottom set gill net, basket, trap, hooks and basket trap. The trap is bailed with the flesh of the brown missel (Mytilus spp.)

Important fishing centres of Kanniyakumari district are Enayam, Middalam, Colachel, Kadiapattinam, Muttom, Rajakkamangalam, Manakudy and Cape Comorin. The nature of work done by the Laboratory Assistant, Marine Biological Station, Cape Comorin is to collect the statistics and the size and sex group composition work. During the period, eight centres (already mentioned including Cape Comorin) were periodically visited and the random samples of lobsters were taken and examined for the size and sex group composition work. Besides, the total landings were also assessed.

The landings for the past five years are as follows:-

1975-76	:	26.426	metric tonnes
1976-77	:	34.975	-do-
1977-78	:	50.969	-do-
1978-79	:	40.670	-do-
1979-80	:	30.010	-do-

The total landings are only for the above eight centres during the period.

The various varieties of fisheries are as follows : –

Inland fisheries :–

(a) Stocked Varieties .– Catla, rohu, mrigal, labeo fimbriatus, common carp, silver carp, grass carp.

(b) Non-stocked varieties.– murrel, barbus, tilapia, catfish, etroplus.

Marine Fisheries.– Seer, caranx, perches, ribbonfish, white bait, shark skaten and rays, tuna, lactarius, sardine, chirocentrus, cuttle fish, prawns and lobster.

Fish Farms.– Fish seed rearing centre, Pechipparai and Fish seed rearing centre, Chittar-II are the notable fish farms in the district.

Research Station.– Technological station-There is a Marine Biological Station at Kanniyakumari.

Inland fish operations are undertaken in reservoirs, tanks and ponds while marine fish operations are undertaken throughout the coastal area of the district.

20354 families in marine sector are engaged in fishing.

The fish production for the year 1985-86 is as follows:-

Marine	–	70574 tonnes
Inland	–	50 tonnes

There is already one Fish Farmers Development Agency functioning in the district.

Fishery Wealth of Kanniyakumari district[52] : A favourable association of hydrobiological factors of the gulf of Mannar, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean has made the sea fisheries resources of the Kanniyakumari district rich and varied. With the merger of this area with Tamil Nadu, active steps have been taken by the Fisheries department to accelerate the tempo of developmental work to obtain maximum sustained yield and for its proper utilisation. And towards this end, a special Fisheries Unit under one Assistant Director of Fisheries has been stationed at Nagercoil with effect from the middle of November 1957.

Fisherfolk and their equipments : The Kanniyakumari district has a coastline of 68 km. along which there are 44 fishing villages, with a total population of 1,14,897, consisting of 32, 915 men, 31, 321 women and 50, 661 children. The chief fishing craft is the catamaran of which there are 19,264 on the whole. There are also 1312 boats. The gears employed by the fishermen consist of 591 shore-seiene nets (karavalai), 9237 gill and drift nets (valavalai, chalavalai and odamvalai) and 2904 hooks and lines.

Fishing seasons : Generally, madivalai are operated from April to October and karavalai from September to June. Gill-nets are set from

August to April and drift nets, especially for seer-fishing, from August to November. Nethalivalai is used during April-May and September-October. Line fishing in about 20-25 fathoms depth is conducted almost daily. The rich Wadge Bank situated about 56 km. south- west of the Cape, is mostly exploited from January to April.

The seasons for the important commercial species are as given below:-

White-baits	..	April, May and September-November
Big-jawed Jumper	..	March, April and August-October.
Sabre fish	..	July-September
Cat-fishes	..	February-March
Perches	..	July-August & February-March
Horse Mackerels	..	May-July
Silver-bellies	..	November
Pamfrets	..	March-April.
Tiger fishes	..	January-March.
Sharks (large)	..	July-September
Sharks (small)	..	Through out the year
Rainbow sardine	..	December-January
Prawns	..	June-August
Rock-cod	..	July-August & December-February
Seer fish	..	August-November
Lobsters	..	November-February

Estimated landings : As per the statistical survey of the fish landings along this district coast, it is estimated that the annual catch is about 70574 tonnes. The important landing centres are Cape Comorin, Muttom, Kadiapatnam, Colachel, Enayam- Puthenthurai and Thuttoor.

All the fishing villages in the district are connected by good roads to Nagercoil. Forty per cent of the catches are cured, and the remaining quantity is sold afresh in the neighbouring villages. About 150 to 200

cycles transport fish from the important landing centres to interior places. About 80 per cent of the cured fish is transported by lorries to Tuticorin for export to Ceylon. The rest is sent to centres in this State itself like Madras, Koilpatti, Nazereth, Melapalayam, Tenkasi, Paramakudi, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Arakonam and Changanacherry in Kerala State.

The lobster-catches are purchased from the fishermen by three private agencies at Muttom and Manavalakurichi and transported to Trivandrum and Ernakulam for freezing and export to America and thereby earning a good foreign exchange.

Economic Conditions of the fisherfolk : The economic condition of the fisher folk of this district appears to be much better than that of their counterpart in other districts. They are mostly Roman Catholic Christians; the coordinated work of the missionaries among fisher folk and the good fish-catches from the coastal waters contribute to their betterment. Under free housing scheme for fishermen in the State, so far 1608 houses have been constructed covering 25 fishing villages. In every fishing village, there is a church and a school, and the role of fishermen for their upkeep maintenance is significant.

Further development : There is considerable scope for improving the catches from this coastal strip. A technological and biological station has been established at Cape Comorin for conducting researches on the assessment, conservation, capture, processing and utilisation of the fish wealth of this area.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF TAMIL NADU FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT.

To uplift the socio-economic status of the fishermen in Kanniyakumari district a new scheme was started. Under this, mechanised boats have been issued on hire purchase scheme to the fishermen in Kanniyakumari district by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited and also through nationalised banks. The details of the issue of mechanised boats by TNFDC Limited to the fishermen at Kanniyakumari district are furnished below :–

I and II Phase *(1)*	*IB* *(2)*	*STB* *(3)*	*TOTAL* *(4)*
Hire Purchase System	32	10	42
Central Bank of India, Nagercoil	40	21	61
United Commercial Bank, Nagercoil	10	1	11
Canara Bank, Kottar	2	2	4
TOTAL	84	34	118
III Phase			
Indian Overseas Bank, Friday Market	1	24	25
State Bank of India, Nagercoil	1	3	4
Primary Land Development Bank, Thuckalay	1	5	6
Primary Land Developmment Bank, Agasthiswaram	–	2	2
Primary Land Development Bank, Munchurai	1	1	2
TOTAL	04	35	39
GRAND TOTAL	88	69	157

To avoid the middlemen exploitation in fish procurement from fisherman, a new scheme was started by The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. in 1979. Under this scheme, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited itself procures the fish from the fishermen in various coastal fishing villages in Kanniyakumari district.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Limited makes better avenues to the fishermen to get reasonable price for their catches. The fish procured and its value are furnished below from the inception of this scheme:- [53]

Year *(1)*	*Quantity (in kg.)* *(2)*	*Value* Rs. Ps. *(3)*
1979-80	30,742.250	1,49,549.94
1980-81	42,985.900	2,64,173.47
1981-82	39,741.000	3,12,888.65

(1)	(2)	(3)
1982-84	No fish procurement	
1984-85	3,601.000	50,853.25
1985-86	4,307.000	58,009.00
1986-87	15,175.000	2,31,455.00
1987-88	19,999.00	1,89,750.00

Fish Farmers Development Agency, Nagercoil : The Tamil Nadu Government in their order No.538, Forests and Fisheries Department, dated 27.4.1982 accorded sanction for the establishment of a Fish Farmers Development Agency for Kanniyakumari district during the year 1982-83, with Headquarters at Nagercoil, with an object of developing Inland Fisheries through intensive farming and cultural practices, involving the local rural population and for stopping up the inland fish production in this District. The Agency started functioning from 2 June 1982.

The Objectives of the Scheme

(i) To reclaim progressively and bring all cultivable fishery resources such as ponds, tanks etc., under optimum fish production in this district :

(ii) To organise the work of the agency in such a way that it serves as a nucleus activity for its extension to other areas; and

(iii) To provide training and popularise a new avocation by way of fish culture to the people and thereby strengthen rural economy, by uplifting those engaged in fish farming, economically viable.

Achievements from 1982-83 to 1987-88

1. Tanks identified	..	343
2. Area identified	..	538.95 ha.
3. Tanks taken over	..	250
4. Area taken over	..	431.50 ha.
5. Tanks in operation	..	191
6. Area in operation	..	370.60 ha.

7.	Fish Farmers trained	..	305
8.	Fish Farmers in operation	..	248
9.	Fingerlings stocked	..	44,01,940
10.	Quantity of fish harvested	..	44,33,82.100 kg.
11.	Value realised by sale of fish	..	19,74,187.00
12.	Highest production achieved per hectare	..	751 kg.
	Input loan		
13.	Input loan issued to fish farmers through agency	..	3,02,500.70
14.	Amount collected from fish farmers principal and interest	..	2,38,138,55
15.	Input loan issued to fish farmers through bank	..	8,55,598.00
16.	Amount collected from the fish farmers towards bank loan principal and Interest	..	2,99,348.70
17.	Government subsidy released to fish farmers on input.	..	1,24,456.45
	Reclamation loan		
18.	Reclamation loan issued to fish farmers through bank	..	2,01,107.80
19.	Government subsidy released to fish farmers for reclamation	..	48,218.25

1. Fish Seed Production Farm at Chittar Dam II : The Goverment have sanctioned under IRDP scheme the construction of a fish farm for Fish Farmers Development Agency at an estimated cost of Rs.5.1 lakhs on 100 per cent subsidy-*vide* G.O. Ms.No. 1766 (RD&LA) (IRDII—) Department, dt.17 November 1982. Sixteen nurseries (10.30 x 6.20 m. size) 2 rearing ponds diesel engine and a small office building were constructed. The fish farm at Chittar Dam-II was taken over on 12 June 1987. The nurseries and rearing ponds are being used for rearing fish seeds.

2. Western Ghats Development Programme : In G.O. Ms. No. 50 (Planning and Development) (TCI), dated 19 April 1988, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.10 lakhs for construction of additional fish seed rearing ponds and staff quarters at Chittar under Western Ghats Development Programme. The Superintending Engineer, Fishing Harbour Projects Circle, Nagercoil have taken up the construction work.[54]

CHINNAMUTTOM FISHING HARBOUR WORKS

Chinnamuttom has large continental shelf area and a high sustainable fish yield in the area. Two rich fishing grounds, viz. the Cape Comorin bank and the Wadge bank are within the close range of Chinnamuttom. The pelagic fishery resources are high, providing scope for pursuing, pelagic trawling, line fishing etc.[55]

The shelf area at Chinnamuttom is well-known for lobsters and prawns, which are capable of increased Pelagic Fishery unit of UNDP at Ernakulam revealed extensive resources of anchovies among the shoaling fishes in this area, capable of sustained yield for a number of years.

Fishery Resources : Chinnamuttom, is in close proximity to the two sizeable fishing grounds viz., Cape Comorin bank and Wadge bank. The former with its extensive coverage of about 23,310 sq.km. and Wadge bank with half that area are rich in perches, which can be caught by hand lines, long lines, trap fishing and by trawling on even ground. Muttom, famous for its rich lobsters is adjacent to Chinnamuttom (25km.) Beyond the continental shelf, deep water prawns are located.

Chinnamuttom has the unique distinction of having the highest pelagic fish catches in the entire Indian origin.

A new Fishing Harbour is under construction at a place called Chinnamuttom which is about 5 km. North of Cape Comorin. The Fishing Harbour project contemplates the construction of a shore connected groyns in the northern side and a break water in the southern tranquility conditions to berth the fishing vessels.

The Government have accorded sanction in their order No.320 (F & F), dt. 23 March 1982 for Rs.234.00 lakhs and the project is based on quantities given in 1978 report, adopting schedule of rates for 1976-77. The escalation in project cost increased from 1971-72 to 82-83 and it was

therefore priced with reference to the schedule of rates for 86-87, which amounted to Rs.684.00 lakhs.

The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme shared 50 per cent by the Central Government and 50 per cent by the State Government. Besides certain amenities to a value of Rs.246.84 lakhs are to be provided under State funds.

This project construction of Fishing Harbour at Chinnamuttom in Tamilnadu, envisages introduction of additional 200 fishing vessels of 9.8 m in size, 40 vessels of 16m (Trap Fishing vessels) 5 vessels of 23.00 m and 5 vessels of 28m. The project is aimed to increase the fish landings from 2000T to 35000T. It is expected to generate employment for about 2000 fishermen.

Under the above scheme, construction of eastern breakwater and western breakwater works have been completed.

Formation of approach bund, coastal approach road, initial stage of water supply works etc., have been completed.[56]

FORESTRY

Importance of Forestry in the Economy of the district : Forestry is the theory and practice of all that constitutes the creation, conservation, and scientific management of forests and the utilisation of their resources to provide for the continuous production of the required goods and services.[57]

Forests of a district, are natural assets of immense value. They meet the needs of timber, fuel, bamboos and a variety of other products, including fodder which are indispensable requirements of the people living in close proximity of the forests. They also provide facilities for the grazings of the livestock of such people and yield a variety of products of commercial and industrial value such as structural timber, charcoal, raw materials for making paper and a number of other economic products, including medicinal drugs.

Forests also provide employment to a large population who engage themselves in tending, harvesting and regeneration as also in ancillary occupations, processing forest raw material and marketing them.

Indirectly, forests preserve the physical features, check soil erosion, mitigate floods, and make the streams flow perennially and thus help agriculture. Forests make the climate equitable and have a considerable

hygienic and strategic value. They also provide shelter to the wildlife which is of scientific and recreational value.

Bifurcated from the Tirunelveli South Forest Division, the Kanniyakumari forest division was formed with effect from 1 April 1977, with headquarters at Nagercoil.

The area of the Kanniyakumari Revenue district is 1671.8 sq.km. Out of this, the area under reserve forests is 446.5 sq.km. which works out to 26.7 per cent of the total area of the district.

The area covered by various reserve forests is as follows :-

1. Therkumalai East	..	11.87	sq.km.
2. Therkumalai West	..	9.07	-do-
3. Thadagaimalai	..	6.75	-do-
4. Poigaimalai	..	7.75	-do-
5. Mahendragiri	..	43.73	-do-
6. Veerapuli	..	249.50	-do-
7. Velimalai	..	12.82	-do-
8. Pechiparai Bit 1-A.	..	0.26	-do-
9. Pechiparai Bit 1-B.	..	0.33	-do-
10. Kalkulam Bit 1-A	..	0.39	-do-
11. Kalkulam 1-B	..	0.44	-do-
12. Kilamalai	..	62.16	-do-
13. Thadalikadu	..	1.54	-do-
14. Asambu	..	39.84	-do-
Total	..	446.45	-do-
		or	
		446.5	sq. km.

The Kanniyakumari forest division comprises of three territorial ranges viz., Kulasekaram, Alagiapandiapuram and Boothpandi, one timber depot range, two survey ranges and one special duty range to attend to the protection, of Upper Kodayar areas.

Further, an area of 4,785 ha. was under rubber cultivation, which was under the control of rubber circles. Consequent on the formation of Arasu Rubber Corporation with Headquarters at Nagercoil, the Kanniyakumari Rubber Circles East and West were wound up and the areas were brought under the Arasu Rubber Corporation on a long term lease basis. The Corporation is now paying an annual lease rent of Rs.4,000 per hectare for nature plantations. [58]

Apart from this, an area of 110 ha. was covered under cultivation with cloves and this area is now under the control of cloves forest division.

Plantations with various species and their area are as follows :-

1	Teak Plantations	.. 2271.00 ha.
2	Softwood (abbiasia falcata)	.. 2614.00 ha.
3	Bamboos	.. 102.00 ha.
4	Eucalyptus	.. 37.50 ha.
5	Tamarind	.. 90.00 ha.

CLOVES PLANTATION, NAGERCOIL

Clove Culture : Clove, a high priced spice is in demand all over world, clove of commerce is the dried matured unopened flower buds. Clove plant grows and flowers almost from the sea level up to an altitude of 900 metres and the suitable temperature range is 25 °c to 30 °c. Rainfall between 1500 and 2000 mm per year is desirable. The plant grows mainly in loose soil with good drainage and sufficient soil moisture throughout the year. Deep black loom soil with high humus content is best suited for clove cultivation. Sunlight is more important for the growth and flowering of the clove.

In the years 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1975, clove plant was raised in two hectare plot on experimental basis at Mahendragiri R.F. in Alagiapandiapuram range at an elevation of about 600 m. Consequent on the successful establishment of the plant, a new division was formed in the year 1975 and clove plantation was raised at Maramalai in Veerapuli Reserved Forest at an elevation, ranging from 250 to 550 m. to an extent of 102 ha.

The break up details were as follows :-

1976 -	31	ha.
1977 -	36	-do-
1978 -	35	-do-
Total :	102	ha.

The Project report for clove cultivation was sanctioned initially in G.O.Ms.No.700, (Forest and Fisheries), dt. 24 July 1975. It was a centrally sponsored scheme, implemented under the 5th Five Year Plan, wherein 50 per cent of the expenditure was shared by the centre. The scheme continued till 1984-85 during the 6th Five Year Plan.

In India, so far no scientific study has been made on this horticultural crop. Based on the experiences gained by the enterprising private estate owners, who cultivate clove in Kanniyakumari district for 1970, the scheme was prepared and its cultivation was also started from 1976.

Though the average rainfall for the period between 1975 and 1984 was 1679.59 mm. the year 1982 witnessed a low rainfall of 1262 mm. Further the precipitation was not well distributed. In 1982 and 1983 this area experienced unprecedented drought which resulted in heavy mortality. Being a light demander and water loving plant, the stacking during the year 1983 went an all time low.

Pest and Diseases : Being an exotic and delicate in nature it is susceptible to damage by insect, nomotodes, fungus and virus. Stem borer was very common. The plants were damaged by scales and mealy bugs also. The die back disease due to fungus also noticed. In this case, the affected plants would start withering from top to bottom.

To combat the pest and diseases, maintaining the horticultural sanitation, periodical application of pesticides and fungicides are essential. This area receives at an average 1500 mm. rainfall and the rainy days are well over 100 days in a year. Four weeding in a year are being carried out along with uprootal of labong grass and other perennial shrubs like Eupotorium, lantana etc. wherever necessary. These operations not only keep the plantations free from weeds and help to reduce the damage by pest and disease.

condition of the plantation : In all four (1971, 1972, 1973 & 1975) plantations stock position as in the year 1986 was as follows :–

Year	*total plants*	*survival*	*percentage*
1976	8990	8455	95
1977	9300	8875	95
1978	14400	14112	98
Older	2264	2100	93
Total	34954	33542	95

Out of 33542 or 33500 plants excluding older garden, the age of the plants assessed approximately is shown in the statement.

	1976	*1977*	*1978*
9 year old plant	84	-	-
8 "	133	73	-
7 "	214	171	271
6 "	529	296	372
5 "	832	548	481
4 "	737	509	534
3 "	1241	2812	6005
2 "	3670	4140	5200
1 "	715	338	1249
	8455	8885	14112

Formation of New Division : Balamore which is about 8 km. from Keeriparai an abandoned tea estate which is now under the control of Forest Department comprising 120 ha. at an elevation of about 450 metre is yet another area, very much suitable for raising cloves without cutting any trees. The another advantage is the Kalikesam river which is running below the area and hence enough water could be pumped and used for irrigation of the plants.

Cultural operations : Clove being a horticultural plant is sensitive to drought and weeds. It is shallow rooted with numerous root let just below the groundlevel, maintaining horticultural sanitation keeping the surrounding free from weeds. Other rank growth is one of the essential operations in the clove garden.

Weeding : Minimum four weeding in a year and uprootal of long elephant grass enpotordum lantana etc. is necessary in an area where the rainfall is heavy and surrounded by moist deciduous type forest.

Clove Plantation : The life span of the clove tree is more than 250 years and the yield also increase year after year. Till 12th year, the plants give only marginal yield-there-after the piant will give about 2 kg. per plant.

Watering : Watering the plants from the middle of December to May first week till South West monsoon season and in the month of September if the dry period warrants in between the South West and North East monsoons, is most essential.

The plants put heavy branches from ground level to the tip and form a conical shape. The branches are so heavy, the plant is shallow rooted that it is always susceptible to splitting of branches. Likewise the tap root of the younger plant, due to heavy wind and grinding action, breaks and the plant dies. Therefore to protect the plants from these damages, tying the plants with 2 to 3 poles with supporting ropes, in some cases tying the branches with ropes, insulating the stem in some places, trimming the branches wherever broken, etc. are the regular features to prevent physical damage.

Pest and Diseases : Stem borer, root rot, die bach, scales, mealy bug, withering of leaves are the common pest and diseases noticed in this exotic plant all through its life span. To combat these dreaded diseases, preventive and curative operations are essential. The fungicide like dithene, thimmode, borade, blue copper, pesticide like motaystax, Nuvens, DDT etc. are to be applied periodically and specifically, whenever the manifestation is noticed.

Fertilizer : Enriching the soil for the better growth, consequent increase in yield is yet another factor in the cultivation of horticultural crops. Now, the practice followed here is 250 grams one doze (all 17)

chemical fertilizer and one doze of compost manure is applied. The soil is lateristic with heavy rainfall. The garden lies in steep slope.

The P^H value ranges 6 to 6.5 considering the factor and the size of the plants, the 250 gm. doze is less, this has to be increased year by year with 2 to 5 kg. per flowering plant. Application of potash has also to be considered for the flowering plants.[59]

MARKETS AND MARKETABLE PRODUCTS [60]

Timber : Timber extraction is not done in Azhagiapandipuram and Kulasekaram forest ranges and only thinning of teak is done now. Teak and rosewood are the two timber species which command great demand. Rosewood logs of a girth of 1.85 m. and above, without any major defects are considered to be of shipment quality and they attract buyers from the West Coast who export them abroad, where they manufacture decorative veneers. Apart from these two, other species such as terminalia, tomentosa lagerstroemia etc. have good demand.

The numerous timber depots at Nagercoil cater to the local needs and also meet the demands of the neighbouring districts. The Government Timber Depot at Nagercoil sells about 6700 cu. metres of timber per annum.

Softwood : Melia dubia and albizzia falcata are in great demand for construction of catamarans. Further, Natch splint Industry utilises allanthus malabarica, alstonia scholaris and albizzia falcatas. These products are absorbed locally.

Fuel and small Timber : All fuel and small timber produces are sold locally in rural as well as urban areas.

Bamboos : Major portion of the requirements of the people are met from the forests in Kanniyakumari district.

Reeds : They are mainly available in Kulasekaram and Azhagiyapandiapuram ranges and they are being supplied to M/s. Srikumari Handicrafts, Kanniyakumari during 1988-89, as a raw material.

Minor Forest Products : The main items of minor forest produce are honey, tamarind, cardamom, myrobolan, cenes etc. They are mostly absorbed locally. Cardamom is raised inside the forests in various lease units and is transported to other districts for sale.

Social Forestry : The Tamilnadu Forest Department recognising the need for Social Forestry in the State, identified areas outside the Reserve Forests and then formulated schemes viz., river-canal plantations and farm forestry. River-canal plantations have been raised through a special scheme drawn up in 1956. Farm forestry scheme which is in essence the present social forestry, was introduced in the State, as a pilot scheme in 1961.

The main areas tackled under this scheme, were tank foreshores, hillocks and poramboke lands in the villages. Extension Forestry Divisions were formed in 1974 and vast plantations have been established on tank foreshores, hillocks and poromboke lands in the villages. Private plantations have also been encouraged and supported under the Extension Service Programme.

The Present Social Forestry Project which was started in 1980 with the collaboration of the Swedish International Development Agency, is a further development of an earlier programme, with the objectives to engage people, as individual as well as members of communities, in planting in available land with trees for the direct benefit of the people and with a view to substantially increase the supply of fuel and other forest produce for the rural population.[61]

The Social Forestry Programme is being implemented by Tiruchendur Social Forestry Division, from 1981-82.[62]

From 1981-1982 to 1986-1987, an area of 89.80 ha. has been covered under the Block Planting, which covers planting on tank bunds, poramboke plains, and poramboke hillocks and raised to meet the demand of the rural people in terms of fuel, fodder, green manure and other minor forest produce. An area of 92.5 km. has been covered under strip plantation from 1981-82 to 1986-1987. Under this scheme, plantations are raised along road sides, railway line, river canal and tank bunds. The species are tamarind, neem, pungam, naval, babul, euc-hybrid, nelli and kodukkapuli etc.

* . **Physical and financial achievements under Social forestry from 1 April 1982 to 31 March 1987 are given in the table below :-**

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Plantation (2)	1982-83 (3)	1983-84 (4)	1984-85 (5)	1985-86 (6)	1986-87 (7)	Total (8)
		physical achievement					
1	Tank foreshore	–	49.60 ha.	12 ha.	–	–	61.60 ha.
2	Poramboke plains	–	–	2 "	–	–	2 "
3	Poramboke hillocks	–	–	15 "	–	–	15 "
4	Fodder	–	–	–	6.2 ha.	–	6.2 "
5	Road avenue	–	–	6 km.	–	–	6 km.
6	River canal	–	–	10 "	–	–	17.5 "
7	Railway line	–	–	23 "	3 km.	30 km.	56
8	Tree Cultivation Incentive Programme	30,000	30,000	11,713	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,71,713
9	Tree cultivation extension programme	60,000	1,20,000	43,287	2,00,000	1,25,000	5,48,287

* Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry, Madras - Report dated 7 December 1987

The principal forest products are timber species such as teak, albizzia, bamboos, reeds and other miscellaneous timber products such as marudu, vengai, manjakadambu etc.

Revenue obtained from the forest products from 1983-84 to 1985-86 is as follows :- [63]

		RUPEES
1983-84	..	35,05,031/
1984-85	..	39,85,365/
1985-86	..	58,87,267/

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Floods : Floods have been damaging large irrigated areas and the damage is acute particularly in the delta areas. Floods also cause damage to the areas irrigated by tanks, where these tanks are in series and the breach of one tank leads to the failure of crops in large scale in low lying areas.

The best way to control floods is to intercept them with storage reservoirs, so that the excess water may be allowed to flow through the valley in low lying areas.

Droughts[64] : The problems posed by drought vary from area to area, depending on the quantum of rainfall and its variability, and also the extent to which irrigation is developed.

Thus, droughts, floods and sea erosion are natural calamities, which normally affect the economy of a district. As far as Kanniyakumari district is concerned, it is free from serious natural calamities, though at times they raise their swollen heads.

If we trace the history and the impact of natural calamities in the area, the year 1915-16 had witnessed a dry weather, with an unusually prolonged drought. The years 1934 and 1938 also had experienced severe drought in the district, which was later recouped by incessant rains, due to timely setting of south west monsoon.

Again, the year 1969 brought a severe drought in the area which resulted water scarcity in both rural and urban areas. The economic conditions of fishermen was worse. As a result of severe dry weather, catches had gone down and many fishermen were thrown out of their occupation. The drought condition was eased, as a result of the setting up of monsoon, later.

1980-81 - Drought : Consequent on the failure of monsoon, the district started experiencing adverse seasonal condition especially scarcity of drinking water in the last month of 1980, necessitating provision for immediate relief.

The details of relief measures taken up are as follows:- [65]

	Details of water supply scheme. *(1)*	*Amount sanctioned* (RUPEES IN LAKHS) *(2)*	*No. of. works taken up.* *(3)*
1.	Deepening of wells	3.20	116
2.	Transport of water through lorries	0.27	4
Labour Oriented Scheme (Irrigation) –			
3.	Highways - Relief works	1.00	9
4.	P.W.D. Irrigation	4.00	62
5.	Highways Department Relief work - Road work	2.00	11

1982-83 and 1983-84 Drought : During 1982-83 also, the district experienced adverse seasonal condition and scarcity of drinking water. On the basis of the recommendations of the study team and also of the High Level Committee at New Delhi, the Government of India approved the ceiling of expenditure for drought relief works in Tamil Nadu during 1982-83 and 1983-84 for a sum of Rs. 77.54 crores for various schemes under drinking water supply employment opportunities, public health and animal husbandry.

Apart from the above, Government ordered remission of collection of land revenue, etc. and postponement of collection of arrears of land revenue and loans under certain conditions. Loans to agriculture for deepening of private irrigation wells were sanctioned during the drought

period 1982-83. The Government also sanctioned a scheme of free supply of dhoties and sarees purchased from the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co- Operative Society , to the landless agriculture labourers.

As the severity of drought was not over in this district even during 1984, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched a massive programme of relief works to provide not only employment to the people to the affected areas but also undertook repairs,etc. of irrigation sources among other things. From out of the ceiling of Rs. 26.65 crores fixed by the Government of India for the generation of employment opportunities for the rural agricultural labourers, the Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 12.27 crores for some items of works to be executed by various agencies such as Public Works Department, H & R.W., TWAD, Local Bodies, etc.[66]

The various items of works undertaken by the Collector of Kanniyakumari under Drought Relief Programme are sinking of new bore wells, deepening of the public drinking water wells, supply of water through lorries, digging new open wells in tank beds, improvements to CWSS in town panchayat and municipalities, improvements to irrigation sources having ayacut of more than 50 acres, improvements to irrigation sources having ayacut of 50 acres and less, formation of new earthen roads, and improvements to Ooranies. Execution of these works has provided employment particularly to the rural folk of the district which has paved way to eke their livelihood during the period of drought.

A statement showing various drought relief works undertaken and the expenditure incurred there for is appended [67].

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	*Category of work*	*Agency which executed the work*	*No. of works completed*	*Expenditure incurred* (RUPEES IN LAKHS)
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1	Sinking of new bore wells	TWAD	530	113.97
2	Deepening of the public drinking water wells	Local bodies	429	14.00
3	Supply of water through lorries	Local bodies	19	10.68
4	Digging new open wells in tank beds	PWD	10	5.98

5	Improvements to CWSS in Town panchayats and municipalities	TWAD	13	10.49
6	Improvements to irrigation sources having ayacut of more than 50 acres	PWD	112	11.00
7	Improvements to Irrigation sources having ayacut of 50 acres and less	H & RWs	73	3.17
8	Formation of new earthern roads	H&RWS	12	0.76
9	Improvements to Ooranies	H & RWs	34	2.22

Again in the year 1987, there was severe drought in Kanniyakumari district because of the vagaries of monsoon. Most of the drinking water wells dried up and the people were put to much hardship to secure drinking water. Hence the Collector of Kanniyakumari made a hectic tour of the district, identified such open wells that had dried up and also the places where deep bore wells had to be dug commensurate with the density of population in and around such places. He formulated a scheme for providing ring wells also. Transportation of water through lorries was also done during the entire drought period wherever necessary. A sum of Rs. 223.67 lakhs has been spent towards water supply.

In agricultural sector, the farmers found it very difficult to ekeout their livelihood because of the fact that they were thrown out of employment due to paucity of water for irrigation. In order to mitigate their problems of such nature, the Collector implemented labour oriented schemes wherever necessary. He took up desilting and reclamation of tanks through the agency of Rural Development and Public Works Departments. Similarly, soil conservation work was taken up through the agencies viz., Agricultural Engineering Department, Panchayat Unions and Town Panchayats and also Municipalities. Further, existing roads were repaired by gravelling, metalling and black topping and repairs to channels and formation of earthern dam and masonry bunds taken up wherever necessary. Thus all these labour oriented schemes were executed at a cost of Rs. 85.5 lakhs. Collector has also concentrated his attention towards augmentation of water supply schemes to Kanniyakumari township also at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs.

As on 31December 1987, the following works were completed towards water supply under Drought Relief Programme:-

Sl. No.	Details of works	No. of works completed
1	New open wells	56
2	Deepening of existing open wells	227
3	Deep bore wells	430
4	Separate feeder lines to water supply scheme	2
5	Comprehensive water supply scheme	40
6	Ring wells	53

A sum of Rs. 199. 80 lakhs was allotted towards relief works as on 1 April 1988.[68]

The particulars of labour oriented schemes implemented are given in the Table below:-

TABLE - II

Labour Oriented Scheme

(1)	No. of works (2)	Amount sanctioned (RS. IN LAKHS) (3)	No. of works completed (4)	Amount spent (RS. IN LAKHS) (5)
I. Desilting of Tanks –				
(1) Rural Development Department Minor Irrigation	345	45.00	345	45.00
(2) Public Works Department	71	14.50	71	14.50
II. Soil Conservation –				
(1) Agricultural Engineering Department	34	9.50	34	9.95

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(2) Panchayat Union and Town Panchayat	43	5.75	43	5.75
(3) Municipalities	3	0.50	3	0.30
Director of Rural Development				
Roads	27	10.00	27	7.00
Channel	10			
Director of Town Panchayats				
Roads	17	3.00	17	3.00
Total		88.25		85.50

Abstract

	Allotment (RS. IN LAKHS)	Expenditure
Water Supply	218.23	223.67
Labour Oriented Scheme	88.25	85.50
	306.48	309.17

Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme	3.00
Kanniyakumari Township	309.48

TALUK-WISE PARTICULARS REGARDING THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE DISTRICT

Agasthiswaram Taluk : This taluk received heavy rain during the north-east monsoon period in 1978 and 1979 which had flooded all revenue villages, affecting about 1620 rural-folk. A sum of Rs. 1,04, 125/ was disbursed as cash relief, 8100 kg. of rice and 1620 sets of cloths were also granted as relief to the victims. During the floods in 1979, 279 people were affected and a sum of Rs. 15, 285/- was granted as cash relief.

Under sea erosion, about 142 persons were affected and a sum of Rs. 24, 650/- was granted from 2 March 1984 to 30 June 1985, as cash relief.

Kalkulam Taluk : Heavy floods caused considerable damage in Kalkulam taluks also during the year 1978-79. Since, the major reservoirs viz., Pechiparai and Perunchani are located in this taluk, the impact was worse in Kalkulam taluk, than in any part of the district. The two reservoirs were full of water. They are kept open to let the water out in order to avoid major disaster. As a result, the residential quarters of the PWD., staff submerged in water and their belongings were washed away.

This taluk witnessed sea erosion from 15 September 1980 to 8 July 1985 in Kottipadu, Maramady, Colachel, Kadiapattinam and Manavalakurichy villages affecting 475 persons. A sum of Rs. 60,500/- was given as relief to the victims during that period. This includes a sum of Rs. 500/- to each victim sanctioned from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. In addition to this, 5 kg. of rice and one litre of kerosene were distributed to each of the affected families.

Thovalai Taluk : This taluk was affected by floods during 1978. Consequently, 506 houses (71 houses completely and 435 houses partly) were damaged and a sum of Rs. 28575/- was granted to the affected victims as relief and 2505 kg. of rice were also distributed to them.

Vilavancode Taluk : This taluk was affected by sea erosion and floods in the year 1979. The impact of sea erosion was severe, with the result, there was loss of human lives and properties. Normally, Villages/ hamlets where there is likelihood of sea erosion are as follows:-

Name of the revenue village	*hamlets*
1. Kollencode	i. Neerodithurai
	ii. Vallavilai
	iii. Marthandam thurai
2. Ezhudesam	i. Poothurai
	ii. Erayumanthurai
	iii. Chinnathurai
	iv. Thoothoor.
3. Painkulam	i. Mulloorthurai

4.	Keezhkulam	i.	Ramanthurai
		ii.	Enayam Puthenthurai
		iii.	Enayamthurai
5.	Midalam	i.	Naduthurai
		ii.	Melmidalamthurai
6.	Keezhmidalam	i.	Kurumpanai

Sea erosion and Relief Measures undertaken during the period from 1979 to 1985

Name of village (1)	*Place of occurrence* (2)	*Year and month* (3)	*No. of families affected* (4)	*Amount spent towards relief measures* (Rs. P.) (5)
Ezhudesam	Erayummanthurai, Chinnathurai Poothurai, Thoothoor, Keezhkulam Ramanthurai	6/79	167	12300.00
Keezhkulam Painkualm	Ramanthurai Mulloorthurai	7/79	166	12950.00
Kollencode	Kalingarajapuram	9/79	2	150.00
Ezhudesam	Erayumman thurai, Thoothoor, Chinnathurai	7/80	13	900.00
Midalam	Midalam	8/80	72	3750.00
Kollencode Midalam	Valiavilai, Marthandamthurai, Neerodi Melmidalam	9/80	3	150.00
Kollencode Ezhudesam	Kollencode Vallavilai	6/81	26	1600.00
Ezhudesam	Poothurai	7/81	28	2450.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Keezhmidalam Midalam Keezhkulam	Kurumpanai Melmidalam Enayam	1984	–	–
	Erayumanthurai Puthenthurai	4/84	40	3850.00
Ezhudesam	Ramanthurai Kanjampuram Erayumanthurai	7/84	20	2750.00
Ezhudesam	Thoothoor Poothurai	6/85	11	1650.00
Ezhudesam Keezhkulam	Poothurai Valiavilai	7/85	221	52200.00
Ezhudesam Midalam	Thoothoor Midalam	9/85	3	600.00

Collector of Kanniyakumari at Nagercoil - Report date 24 July 1987

Sea Erosion [69] **:** Tamil Nadu is situated in the south-east peninsula of India, having a very long stretch of coast of about 920 km. of which 70 km. on the Arabian sea experiences south-west monsoon for about 4 months from middle of May to middle of September every year. The monsoon waves are very high and affects the shore line considerably. The entire coast line is in the fate of storms every year and cyclone damages are a regular feature in the coastal area of Kanniyakumari district, which results damages to houses and valuable properties as well as human life. Hence, to safeguard the coastal people and fishermen, it is proposed to construct protective sea wall of overflow section in the Arabian sea coast, where the erosions are very acute.

Sea erosion in Arabian sea coast has been occurring from 1960 onwards due to storms and high waves and the attack of the sea in these areas are violent.

From the year 1969 to 1977, about 549 houses and huts for an approximate amount of Rs. 5,59,000/- were damaged and numerous rich coconut trees were rooted out by the violent waves and also the temporary protection works already done were also damaged, which would cost about Rs. 4,57,500/-.

During the year 1970-71, the following protective works were executed for arresting the erosion:-

1. Construction of random rubble masonry wall parallel to the sea shore at Eramanthurai for Rs. 1,20,402/-
2. Construction of rough stone protective wall at Midalamthurai for Rs. 89, 500/-.
3. Construction of protective wall at Melam for Rs.47,100/-
4. Construction of random rubble masonry protect at Pallamthurai for Rs. 2,00,552/-. All the above have failed and damaged subsequently.

After detailed study and research, a standard section of rubble mounds with a bottom width of 18 metres and top width of 1.55 metres is now adopted in sea erosion areas.

Occurrences and Causes of Erosion : The reasons for the periodical erosion on the West Coast during south-west monsoon periods are as follows:-

(i) The bed slope of beach and from high water mark to 6 m. contours are very steep upto 1:4 - so, the waves come and break very near the beach;

(ii) The availability of beach sand and sand found in sea bed in shallow depth at or near the breaker zone are fine to medium grained sand;

(iii) They contain lot of calcareous, felspar shells etc. with low density; and

(iv) Because of low density, they are not in a position to withstand the wave impact and are easily carried away by waves and are kept in suspension, taking lot of time for settlement.

Brief details of the damages caused [70] : From the year 1969 to 1977, about 649 fishermen houses and huts were damaged and their value thereon are detailed below :-

Year	*No. of houses huts damaged*	*Approximate cost of damage* (RUPEES)
1969	97	46,000
1970	110	56,000
1971	32	40,000
1972	61	60,000
1973	191	2,00,000
1974	64	70,000
1975	13	10,000
1976	44	50,000
1977	37	27,000

ANTI - SEA EROSION DIVISION

As per G.O. Ms. No. 196,PWD., dt. 7 February 1977 an Anti-Sea Erosion Division was formed at Nagercoil with two Sub-Divisions at Eraniel in March 1977 for attending the work of construction of rubble mound sea wall along the Arabian sea coast to protect the coastal villages from sea erosion. Subsequently one Sub- Division at Eraniel was shifted to Nagercoil in October, 1980 so as to be nearer to work spots. In addition to the above two sub-divisions, one more sub-division at Nagercoil was formed in 1983, which was subsequently shifted to Kuzhithurai in November 1983, to have easy access to the work spots.

The sub-division at Eraniel was shifted to Tiruchendur in 1986, to look after the antisea erosion works at Manapad and Periathalai of Chidambaranar District. Till 30 September 1986, the above division with three sub-divisions were under the control of PWD. From 1 October 1986 the Anti-Sea Erosion Division and three sub- divisions were transferred from PWD to Fisheries Department under the administrative control of the Director of Fisheries.

On 1 July 1987, the Anti-Sea Erosion Division was shifted to Satyamangalam under the name and style of Bhavanisagar Division with Head quarters at Satyamangalam to speed up the execution of Fisheries works. While transforming the Anti-Sea Erosion Division to Satyamangalam, its three sub-divisions (viz.,) Anti-Sea Erosion Sub-Division–I, Nagercoil, Anti-sea Erosion Sub-Division–II, Tiruchendur, and Anit-Sea Erosion Sub-division-III, Kuzhithurai were attached to Fisheries Project Divisions at Nagercoil, Satyamangalam and Thanjavur respectively.

As such, this Anti-Sea Erosion Sub-Division, Nagercoil attached to Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour Division at Nagercoil is attending to the residual anti sea erosion works in Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Chidambaranar districts under the administrative control of Director of Fisheries.[71]

Possible Damage to Fishermen Community due to sea - erosion : Fishermen community is most affected during sea-erosions. During sea erosions, fishermen families are vacated to some safer places. They are provided with cash relief, besides rice, kerosene, cloth, etc., during the period of natural calamities. As anti-sea erosion measures, sand filled in gunny bags are dumped in large quantities in places where sea erosion takes place. Preventive walls are constructed with huge rubbles, all along the coast, as an anti-erosion measure.

Co-operative movement in agriculture : The Co-operative movement in Tamil Nadu continues to make progress in various directions. The Government also continue to utilise the services of the movement by opening rural credit societies wherever necessary. These societies have taken up multipurpose activities, such as distribution of manure, agricultural implements, foodstuff, clothing and other essential requirements.[72]

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited : The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation is functioning in this State since 1959 with its main object to serve the farmers of Tamil Nadu both in the supply of their input needs and market their agricultural produce in order to ensure remunerative returns.

Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation (TANFED) has 14 Regional Offices throughout the State to look after the field work in its service activities. These Regional Offices are functioning at Kancheepuram, Vellore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Mannargudi (Thanjavur district), Pudukkottai, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Nagercoil.

TANFED has 117 'A' class members including the 114 taluk level Cooperative Marketing Societies and Government of Tamil Nadu and 3908 'B' class members. The total paid-up-share capital of the Federation is Rs.219 lakhs. Its business operation has extended up to a turn-over of Rs. 7682-47 lakhs, during 1987-88 season.

The Nagercoil region exclusively covers the Kanniyakumari district. The Kanniyakumari district, unlike other districts, has special feature and is attracting the market for spices. The important items of marketers' interest in this district are cardamom, pepper, fruits, cashews, tapioca, cocoa, coconut etc. Like these produces, the fertilisers requirement is also a different one so as to serve the needs of plantation crops.

There are 4352 Co-operative societies under different functions acting as the retail outlets of TANFED in its input distribution in Tamil Nadu. About 115 Co-operative societies are looking after the distribution in this tiny district. During the year 1987-88 TANFED distributed Rs.6402 lakhs worth fertilisers in Tamil Nadu and in Kanniyakumari district fertilisers were supplied to the value of Rs. 210.13 lakhs. Besides Rs. 1.62 lakhs worth other inputs viz., seeds, pesticides and implements were also distributed.

In the marketing of agricultural produce, TANFED marketed pepper worth Rs. 16.55 lakhs from this district during 1987-88.[73]

Rubber : The Kanniyakumari District Rubber Growers Co-operative Marketing Society is the only society of its kind in the State engaged in the marketing of rubber. As on 30th June 1983 it had 1522 members on its roll with the paid up share capital of Rs. 4.10 lakhs, which included Rs. 1.39 lakhs contributed by the State Government and Rs. 0.50 lakh contributed by the Rubber Board. During the year 1982-83 the society handled rubber to the extent of Rs. 47.69 lakhs.

The society also undertakes other service functions such as distribution of inputs and requisites like manure mixtures, formic acid, aluminium pans, rubber kates, tapping knives, digging forks etc., to its grower members.

Grading activities : With a view to encourage the co-operative to undertake grading so as to ensure a better price for the produce of the members, Government are extending financial assistance by way of subsidy towards the cost of grading equipments.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT [74]

Agricultural marketing involves in its simplest form of buying and selling of agricultural produce. In modern agricultural marketing, it has three important functions, namely, (a) assembling (concentration), (b) preparation for consumption (processing) and (c) distribution (dispersion).

The importance of efficient marketing system was at first recognised by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in its' report in the year 1928. As a result of the Commission's recommendation, the Government of India enacted Agricultural Produce Grading and Marking Act (APGMA) in 1937.

Promotion of grading and standardisation of agricultural products is covered under this act. The scheme comprises the grading at two levels namely :-

(a) Consumer level and

(b) Producer or farmer level

Consumer level grading : (Agmark grading)– In our country, adulteration of consumer products particularly food articles have assumed such serious proportions that consumers even hesitate to

purchase what is offered for sale in the open markets especially in the urban areas. The customer is guided by the price factor only rather than quality factor, and this temperament induces adulteration in consumer products. The only solution to this problem lies in "AGMARK GRADING".

"AGMARK" is literally the abbreviation used to denote the two words "Agriculture " and "Marketing", i.e. "AG" representing "Agriculture" and "Mark" representing "Marketing". Although agricultural marketing covers a very wide field of economic activity extending from the field of farmers to the door of ultimate consumers, the shortened form "Agmark" has a limited connotation representing the standard agricultural and livestock products packed and marketed according to the provisions of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

Objectives of Agmark Grading : The important objectives of Agmark Grading are :-

1. The guarantee for quality and undoubted purity to the consumers.
2. Agmarking promotes distribution of genuine goods of pre-tested quality and purity to the consumers.
3. Benefiting the producers of the manufacturers with better returns.

By Agmark grading the Govt. ensure the supply of quality goods to the public and protect them from so many hazardous diseases. The intention of introducing Agmark grading is to prevent adulteration in food stuffs and makes available unadulterated food articles to the consumers.

The Agricultural produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 implies, voluntary system of grading and quality control. Agmark grading is compulsory for exportable commodities. Now there are 35 State Agmark grading laboratories in Tamil Nadu and the commodities are graded for internal consumption. The important commodities, graded in these laboratories are ghee, vegetable oils, honey and ground spices.

AGMARKING IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

The first State Agmark Grading Laboratory was established in this district at Nagercoil and it started functioning from 1 November 1974 in the premises of Vadasery Regulated Market Complex.

The second State Agmark Grading laboratory was started at Marthandam and functioning from 1 April 1982. The laboratory is at present located at Kuzhithurai.

STAFF PATTERN :

Agmark Grading Laboratory, Nagercoil :–

Sl.No.	*Name of the post*	*Number*
1.	Agricultural Officer (Chemistry)	1 (one)
2.	Junior Assistant (Security)	1 (one)
3.	Laboratory Assistant	1 (one)
4.	Laboratory Boy	1 (one)

Targets and Achievements Commodity wise from the inception :–

			Physical		*Financial*	
Sl. No. (1)	*Commodity* (2)	*Year* (3)	*Target* (4) (in Qtls)	*Achieve-ment* (5)	*Target* (6)	*Achieve-ment* (7) (IN RUPEES)
1.	Coconut oil	1974-75	1100	1184	2200	2368
	Honey		605	684	6050	6840
	Groundspices		55	101	550	1010
2.	Coconut oil	1975-76	4000	3540	8000	7080
	Honey		1000	1120	10000	11200
	Groundspices		250	250	2500	2500
3.	Coconut oil	1976-77	5000	5692	10000	11384
	Honey		2000	2053	20000	20530
	Groundspices		350	392	3500	3920
4.	Coconut oil	1977-78	5525	5184	11000	10368
	Honey		2350	2176	23500	21760
	Groundspices		550	560	4000	5600
5.	Coconut oil	1978-79	5600	4632	11200	9264
	Honey		2350	1900	23500	19000
	Groundspices		500	177	5000	1770
6.	Coconut oil	1979-80	5000	6424	10000	12848
	Honey		2000	1001	20000	10010
	Groundspices		125	22	1250	220

7.	Coconut oil	1980-81	6000	3032	12000	10064
	Honey		1100	1352	11000	13520
	Ground spices		–	–	–	–
8.	Coconut oil	1981-82	7000	6066	14000	12132
	Honey		150	153	1500	1530
	Groundspices		–	–	–	–
9.	Coconut oil	1982-83	6500	6604	13000	13208
	Honey		150	160	1500	1600
	Groundspices		–	10	–	100
10.	Coconut oil	1983-84	7000	5356	14000	10712
	Honey		200	78	2000	780
	Groundspices		50	53	750	880
11.	Coconut oil	1984-85	8000	3256	16000	6656
	Honey		180	112	1800	1120
	Groundspices		60	73	900	1170
12.	Coconut oil	1985-86	6500	6066	13000	13839
	Honey		150	152	1500	1520
	Groundspices		100	105	1500	1600
13.	Coconut oil	1986-87	6500	5002	19500	15006
	Honey		140	195	1400	1950
	Groundspices		120	201	1800	3100
14.	Coconut oil	1987-88	7000	3398	21000	10191
	Honey		150	395	1500	3950
	Groundspices		200	386	3000	5790

State Agmark Grading Laboratory, Marthandam : This Laboratory has been mainly started to cater the needs of the honey packers of this area. The area is famous for honey production and it is known throughout India.

Staff Pattern –

Sl. No.	*Name of the post*	*Number*
1	Agricultural Officer (Chemistry)	1 (one)
2	Junior Assistant-cum-typist	1 (one)
3	Laboratory Assistant	1 (one)
4	Laboratory Boy	1 (one)
5	Watchman	1 (one)

Target and Achievement (commodity handled) from the inception :-

Sl. No. (1)	Commodity (2)	Year (3)	Physical (qtl.) Target (4)	Physical (qtl.) Achievement (5)	Financial Rs. Target (6)	Financial Rs. Achievement (7)
1	Honey	1982-83	1490	1501	14900	15010
2	Honey	1983-84	2000	2103	20000	21030
3	Honey	1984-85	2000	2250	20000	22500
	Coconut oil		–	120	–	360
4	Honey	1985-86	2200	1885	2200	18850
	Coconut oil		–	840	–	2520
5	Honey	1986-87	2000	1203	20000	12030
	Coconut oil		1000	550	3000	1650
6	Honey	1987-88	2200	2455	22000	24550
	Coconut oil		1160	680	3480	2040

Producer level (or) village level (or) Commercial grading : This grading mainly involves the grading of agricultural produce in the regulated markets at which the buying and selling of the agricultural produce takes place, and at farm holdings to help the producers to get remunerative price for their produce and to educate them about the importance of grading in marketing.

Regulated Markets : "Madras Commercial Crops Market Act 1933", which was later modified as "Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Market Act" 1959 envisages the formation of Market Committees at District head quarters. Under this pattern, Kanniyakumari Market Committee was established on 1 January 1967 with headquarters at Nagercoil.

The names of regulated markets and their dates of inception in Kanniyakumari district are given below :-

Name of Regulated Market	Date of inception
1. Vadasery	18 April 1968
2. Ethamozhi	18 April 1967
3. Kaliyakkavilai	25 July 1968
4. Thoduvetti	16 August1969
5. Kulasekaram	1 September 1975
6. Monday Market	16 August 1969

The notified crops for Kanniyakumari district are given below :–

1. Coconut ,	2. Cashewnut ,	3. Tapioca,	4. Tamarind,
5. Jaggery,	6. Paddy,	7. Groundnut and	8. Rubber.

The farmers are given adequate provisions such as resting room, telephone facility, drinking water facility and cattle shed in the campus of regulated markets, to sell their product at reasonable price.

Construction of Rural Godowns : Rural Godowns have been constructed in Tamil Nadu, availing the Central Government assistance at village market places with the aim of helping the small, medium level farmers, to keep their agricultural produce for sometime to avoid distress sale during harvest seasons and wherever prices fall sharp. So far, 89 rural godowns with a capacity of 1000 m.tonnes each have been constructed. Pledge amount at 50 per cent of the produce thus kept, can be availed off by the farmers.

In Kanniyakumari district, five rural godowns have been constructed in the premises of five Regulated Markets viz., Kulasekaram, Kaliyakkavilai, Monday Market, Thoduvetti and Vadaseri.

Commercial Grading Centres (at Regulated Market) :- To impart the education about the quality of the agricultural produce and post-harvest technology and to improve the bargaining capacity among the farmers, commercial grading centres have been started in the premises of regulated markets.

Functions of Commercial Grading Centres : [75] Grading agricultual produce makes the farmers quality conscious. The graders (i.e.) Assistant Agricultural Officers collect the samples of notified or non-notified agricultural commodities, from the arrivals in the Regulated Market and also from the farms and fix the grades according to the commercial grade specifications.

The percentage of refraction viz., foreign matter, brokens, admixture, immature, moisture, discoloured and damaged, are worked out for the sample and grades are assigned to the lots. The grading is done free of charge. The producers are able to gain Rs.5/- to Rs. 10/- more per quintal by grading their produce before sale.

Regular post-harvest technology explaining meetings have been conducted monthly twice, so that the farmers can be made to utilise the services of Regulated Market and Commercial Grading Centres.

COMMERCIAL GRADING IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

There are two commercial grading centres in Kanniyakumari district, one at Vadasery regulated market and the other at Monday market regulated market.

Staff Pattern (at each commercial grading centre):

Sl. No.	*Name of the post*	*Number*
1.	Agricultural Officer	1 (one)
2.	Laboratory boy	1 (one)

Commodity Graded : The quantity of agricultural commodities graded by the commercial grading centres from 1983-84 to 1987-88 is given below :-

Sl. no. (1)	*Commodities (2)*	*1983-84 (3)*	*1984-85 (4)*	*1985-86 (5)*	*1986-87 (6)*	*1987-88 (7)*
Vadasery :–	(from the time of inception) (*in qtls.*)					
1	Paddy	1642	15008	15294	15017	17003
2	Groundnut	1295	6016	6010	6024	6017
Mondaymarket :–						
3	Paddy	2314	9854	10023	10024	12097
4	Groundnut	3016	5000	4008	4026	4182

PART II

IRRIGATION

Irrigation is the artificial application of water to soil for the purpose of crop production. Water is irrigated through various sources to supplement the water available from rainfall and the contribution to soil moisture from ground water. In many areas of the world, the amount and timing of rainfall are not adequate to meet the moisture requirement of crops and irrigation has therefore become quite essential to raise crops necessary to meet the needs of food and fibre.

Irrigation is an oid art, as old as civilization. The increasing need for crop production for the growing population is causing rapid expansion of irrigation throughout the world.

In the comprehensive strategy needed for the conservation and development of the water resources, several factors such as the availability of water, its quality, location, distribution and variation in its occurrence, climatic conditions, nature of the soil, competing demands and socio-economic conditions are given due consideration.[76] The aim is to increase agricultural production per unit volume of water per unit and area of cropped land.

Scientific management of irrigation water provides the best insurance against weather-induced fluctuations in total food production. This is the only way in which we can make our agriculture competitive and profitable.

Irrigation in Kanniyakumari district : Irrigation in Kanniyakumari district is carried on with the supply of water available both from river sources and tanks. Irrigation works are classified as major, medium and minor according to the lands irrigated by such works. The major irrigation work in this area is the Kothayar Irrigation Project under which the waters of Kothayar and the Paralayar (which combined to form Kuzhithuraiyar) and the Pazhayar are harnessed and used for irrigation purposes.

Area Irrigated : Out of 80,892 ha. of net area sown (18,263 ha. area sown more than once) in 1983-84, 28,253 ha. total net area was irrigated representing over 34.97 per cent. The percentage of net area irrigated against the net area sown was 35 per cent in Kanniyakumari.

Sources of Irrigation : Tank irrigation is the principal source of irrigation in Kanniyakumari district. The percentage of area irrigated from tanks to the net area irrigated was 56.6 per cent. The net area irrigated by different sources (Food+Non-Food Crops) is shown in the table below :-

AREA UNDER IRRIGATION (in hectares)

** Net area irrigated by different sources / food and non-food crops*

	Sources of Water supply (1)	1975–76 (2)	76–77 (3)	77–78 (4)	78–79 (5)	79–80 (6)	80–81 (7)	81–82 (8)	82-83 (9)	83-84 (10)
1	Government canals	16301	12951	12471	12984	13474	11155	12046	11433	11560
2	Private canals	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3	Tanks	11701	13554	15797	15734	15457	15229	15911	16640	15999
4	Tube wells	36	36	36	37	16	157	–	165	57
5	Wells (sole irrigation)	287	347	342	200	232	229	283	395	418
6	Wells supplementing other sources of irrigation	365	369	369	251	28	28	16	15	21
7	Other sources (springs channels etc)		365	205	206	100	98	214	365	313219
8	Total net area irrigated excluding wells supplementing other sources	28690	27093	28852	29055	29277	26984	28605	28694	28253
9	Area irrigated more than once in the same year	26734	19350	23323	21122	24866	19968	23845	22377	17002
10	Total gross area of crops irrigated	55424	46443	52175	50177	54143	46952	52450	51323	45255

* Annual Statistical Abstract of the concerned year issued by the Statistics Department, Madras

Crop Irrigated : The total extent raised with crops (gross area sown) was 6944959 ha. and the net area sown was 5846128 ha. leaving a gap of 1098831 ha. which accounted for area sown for more than once during 1983-84. The percentage of the gross area irrigated to the gross area sown worked out to 45.7 per cent. The percentage of area under food crops to the total area sown in Kanniyakumari district was 67.2 per cent.

IRRIGATION SOURCES AND MAINTENANCE IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Kanniyakumari district is predominantly an agricultural area depending mainly on both the north east and south west monsoons. It receives a fairly good rainfall in both the seasons.

The only major river in this district is Tambaraparani (otherwise known as Kuzhithuraiar locally). This river has got two major tributaries namely Kodayar river and Paralayar river. There are many tributaries to Kodayar of which Chittar I and Chittar II are the major tributaries. The origin of the main river Tambaraparani is western ghats and the river flows within Kanniyakumari district for a length of 59.2 km. and confluences with the Arabian Sea near Thengapattinam which is at a distance of 56 km. west of Cape Comorin, the southern most tip of India.

KODAYAR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

The district is well served by the Kodayar Irrigation System, which is one of the oldest systems in Tamil Nadu, providing irrigation facilities for double crop paddy. Ayacut and other details are as follows :-

I. Kodayar System : Kodayar system consists of two dams Pechipparai and Perunchani and a network of channels for irrigating 25900 ha. in Kanniyakumari district. The scope of the system is to divert the Kodayar water to Paralayar and augment supply to the channels taking off from Paralayar and thus to feed the lands in Kalkulam, Agastiswaram and Thovalai taluks :–

1	Designed ayacut	- 25900 ha. (double crop)
2	Area irrigable	- 23589 ha. (double)

This area is fed by the four channels namely :–

1	Thovalai channel	- 5206 ha.
2	Anandanar channel	- 4007 ha.
3	Padmanabhapuram Puthanar channel	- 7973 ha.
4	Nangilnadu Puthanar Channel including Pazhayar	- 6402 ha.
5	Length of main canals	- 60.8 km.
6	Length of branch channel	- 169.6 km.
7	Length of distribution	- 166.4 km.

Water is released from this system for irrigation every year on Ist June and closed at the end of February.

The Kodayar system is situated in an undulating and heavily falling terrain in the western slopes of the western Ghats in Kanniyakumari district. The system comprises the integrated operation of commands of the two major rivers viz., Kodayar and Paralayar, and two drainage carrier systems viz., Pazhayar and Valliyar covering an extent of 26000 ha. over for double crop paddy. Apart from this, the command has been extended for double crop paddy to an extent of 4368 ha. under Pattanamkal command and also for supplementation to 6883 ha. of rainfed lands under Radhapuram command in the neighbouring Tirunelveli district.

The Kodayar system comprises four reservoirs, viz., with a combined live storage capacity of 233.1 m.cu.m., Kodayar left bank canal (the main conveyor), a pick-up anicut known as Puthan dam, Thovalai canal, N.P. canal, Ananthanar channel and P.P. canal. In addition, there is the Pattanamkal canal taking off from Kodayar left bank canal, and Radhapuram canal (in Tirunelveli district) which is an extension of Thovalai canal.

THE RIVER BASIN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

The river Thambaraparani in Kanniyakumari district is different from the Thambaraparani river flowing in the adjacent Tirunelveli district. The river has got two main tributaries Kodayar and Paralayar. The Kodyar river originates in the western slopes of the western ghats near Agastiyamalai at an altitude of 1500 metres above mean sea level. The river Paralayar rises in the western slopes of western ghats from a natural lake called "Perunchani lake" by the side of Muthukuli palace hill

and Glenrore hills at an altitude of about 1500 metres above mean sea level and joins with Kodayar. The river Kodayar has many small tributaries among which Chittar I and Chittar II are the important tributaries. After the confluence of Kodayar and Paralayar, the Mullayar stream starting in the hilly slopes in Monkode village joins with Thambaraparani near Thirukurichi village of Vilavancode Taluk.

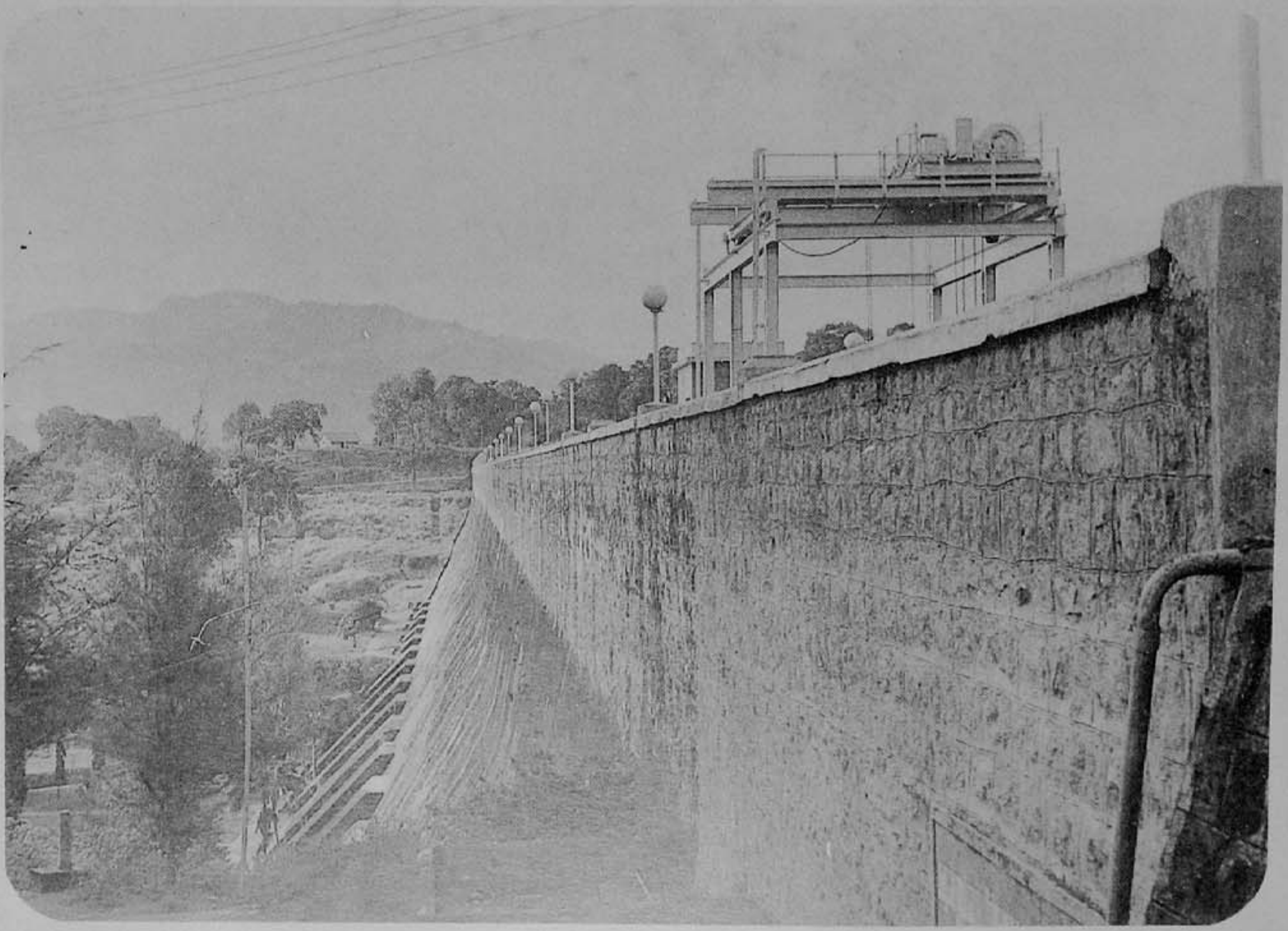
Adjacent to the Kodayar and Paralayar basins, there are two district and separate small basins called Pazhayar basin and Valliyar basin in which irrigation was practised from time immemorial. The river Pazhayar, small drainage river, originating near Shorolacode a place 1.61 km. north west of Nagercoil, drains the Pazhayar basin and finally outfalls into Arabian sea near Manakudi after traversing a distance of 35 km. Similarly, the other small drainage course called "Valliar" originating at Vallimalai joins the Arabian sea Kadiapattinam after traversing a distance of 16 km. It drains the Valliar basin.

The irrigation works in the district originated in these two drainage basins date back to well over thousand years. In the Pazhayar basin, irrigation was carried on through two channels viz., Ananthanar and Nanjilnadu-Puthanar channel (N.P. channel) taking off from the river Pazhayar by two anicuts across the drain at Shorolacode and Chattuputhur. As the Pazhayar basin was experiencing water scarcity, the Pandian rulers mooted out the idea for interbasin transfer from Paralayar to Pazhayar. About 1000 years back, the diversion anicut called "Pandian dam" was constructed across Paralayar river and a channel called Pandiankal was excavated to feed Ananthanar and N.P. channels of Pazhayar basins.

The Pandian dam got silted up gradually and then the great Chera Ruler Sri Marthandavarma realising that the efficiency got impaired to a larger extent in due course (about 200 years ago) constructed a new diversion weir called Puthan dam across Paralayar about 400 metres downstream of Pandian dam. At the same time, he had also constructed a new canal named Padmanabhapuram Puthanar channel (P.P. channel) for inter-basin transfer of Paralayar basin water to Valliyar basin.

These works no doubt form the nucleus of the present irrigation system in the district.

The Pandian dam and Puthan dam across Paralayar were acting only as diversion weirs thereby most of flood waters in the rivers Paralayar used to flow waste. In Kodayar river, entire flow was unutilised and allowed to go waste. But the command area around Valliyar and Pazhayar basins steadily increased year after year and it resulted in



Pechiparai Dam - Front View

inadequate supply to command. It was, therefore, felt that a storage reservoir was necessary to secure supply to these commands.

The details of the dams constructed in the district are briefed below. There are four dams constructed in this district and the details are given below –

I. PECHIPPARAI DAM.– The Pechipparai dam was constructed across Kodayar river first in 1906 by then Maharaja of Travancore state. The details of the dam are as follows.–

Details	*Pechipparai*
Construction year	1896-1906
Length of Dam	425.51 m.
Type of dam	Masonry
Top of dam mean sea level	94.5 m.
Max. water level	92.0 m.
F.R.L.	92.0 m.
Sluice sill level	77.4 m.
Water spread area	15 sq.km.
Capacity gross	150.25 m.cum.
Net	123.18 m.cum.
Dead	27.07 m.cum.
Catchment area	204.8 sq.km.
Average rainfall	2180 mm.
Design flood	1104 cum/s.
Average annual yield	402 n.cum.
Surplus regulator	6 nos.
Vents	12.2 m. X 4.6 m.

This was built across Kodayar river about 1.61 km. below the confluence of three tributaries Kallar, Chittar and Kuttiyar at Pechipparai a place 11.27 km. north of Kulasekaram and is 45.08 km. from Nagercoil.

A link canal was excavated from left bank of this dam for a length of 17km. tor diverting Kodayar water to Puthan dam where the Kodayar wa*er mixes with channel taking off from Pandiankal of Chellamthuruthi was constructed during this period to feed, a new command on the left side of Pazhayar basin. The combined flow of Pechipparai dam (through left bank canal to Puthan dam) and Paralayar inflow in Puthan dam was designed to irrigate the ayacut of about 20000 ha. through five sub-systems, viz., P.P. channel, N.P. channel, Ananthanar channel, Thovalai channel and Pazhayar river. This is known as the old Kodayar system.

II. PERUNCHANI DAM.– As there was deficiency in the Kodayar system, Perunchani dam was constructed in the upstream of Pandian dam in 1953 to store flood water in Paralayar river. The details are as follows –

Details	*Perunchani*
Construction year	1948-53
Length of Dam	373 m.
Type of dam	Masonry
Top of dam mean sea level	94.2 m.
Max.water level	93.3 m.
F.R.L.	93.3 m.
Sluice sill level	69.8 m.
Water spread area	9.50 sq.km.
Capacity gross	81.80 m.cum.
Net	81.80 m.cum.
Dead	–
Catchment area	154.4 sq.km.
Average rainfall	2240 mm.
Design flood	878 cum/s
Average annual Yield	218 m.cum
Surplus regularor	4 mos.
Vents	12.2 m. X 4.6 m.

This was constructed at Perunchani, - a place which is about 9.66 km. east of Kulasekarm and about 41.86 km. north-west of Nagercoil.

III. THIRPARAPPU WEIR SYSTEM.– Thirparappu Weir across Kodayar river below Pechipparai dam was constructed in Thirparappu village, which is about 8.05 km. north west of Kulasekaram in the year 1951. It has two branches on either sides. The length of the channel and the ayacut extent are as follows :–

Thirparappu	L.B.C.	18.40 km.	162.54 ha.
-do-	R.B.C.	8.55 km.	195.70 ha.

IV. ARUVIKKARAI WEIR SYSTEM : It is constructed across river Paralayar at a place Aruvikkarai near Thiruvattar. It has two branches towards left and right. The length and the ayacut of the branches are as follows :–

Aruvikkarai	L.B.C.	12.87 km.	47.00 ha.
Aruvikkarai	R.B.C.	4.22 km.	214.69 ha.

Perunchani Dam

With all these developments, there was still potential in Kodayar and Paralayar rivers. Therefore, additional extent in Pattanamkal area (on the left bank of Thambaraparani river) and in Radhapuram taluk of the neighbouring Tirunelveli district was proposed for irrigation.

Pattanamkal System : Chittar-Pattanamkal scheme consists of two earthern dams constructed across Chittar I and II and to interconnect both the reservoirs by means of an interconnecting channel and raising F.R.L. of Pechipparai and Perunchani dam by 6'-0". The feeder canal excavated from chittar dam I will supply to Kodayar L.B.C. The Pattanamkal has been excavated from M.6/4- 200 of Kodayar L.B.C. for a length of 43 Km. with branches of distributaries for irrigating about 6072.87 ha. of double crop wet land in Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks. An extent of 3791.52 ha. including the entire existing ayacut under Pattanamkal system have been developed so far.

Radhapuram Canal System : The Radhapuram canal from 2.09 km. of Nilapparai channel has been excavated under Chittar Pattanamkal Scheme for irrigating about 17,000 acres of dry lands in Radhapuram area of Tirunelveli district. The length of channel is about 33.47 km. The length of distributaries is 69.70 km. The field channel is about 81.07 km. The ayacut so far developed 2594.33 ha. only. This is due to shortage of water. Execution of Thadavayar scheme and pumping scheme from Paralayar may improve the position.

Further two more dams, Chittar I and Chittar II were constructed across Chittar river-I and Chittar river II in the years 1964-70. These two dams are interconnected by link canal and the Chittar-I was connected to Kodayar left bank canal through a feeder canal.

Further details of these two dams are as follows:–

Chittar Dam - I.– This dam has its source in the mountains in Kilamala Reserve Forest near Ettukani and Vandiplavukani at an elevation of 2000 ft. above mean sea level and is at about 1.61 km. upstream of the confluence of the river Kodayar. The gross capacity of the dam is 610 m.cft.

Details	*Chittar-I*
Construction	1964-70
Length of Dam	818.40 m.
Type of dam	Earthern
Top of dam mean sea level	85.0 m.
Max.water level	82.0 m.

Full reservoir level	82.0 m.
Sluice sill level	76.5 m.
Water spread area	2.90 sq. km.
Capacity gross	17.27 m.cum.
Net	11.13 m.cum.
Dead	6.14 m.cum.
Catchment area	22.0 sq.km.
Average rainfall	2080 mm.
Design flood	235 cum/s.
Average annual yield	—
Surplus regulator	2 nos.
Vents	12.2 m. X 4.6 m.

CHITTAR DAM - II.– This dam has its source in Kilamala Reserve Forest at an elevaion of 701 m. above m.s.l. and is at about 1.6 km. upstreams on the southern and eastern slopes of Kurinchimalai, after running for 5.8 km. merges at Sivalogam Estate to form Chittar-II and then flows for 4.4 km. and thereafter joins with Kodayar. The gross capacity of the dam is 1009 m.cft.

Details	*Chittar-II*
Construction Year	1964-70
Length of Dam	1133.9 m.
Type of dam	Earthern
Top of dam mean sea level	85.0 m.
Max. water level	82.0 m.
Full reservoir level	82.0 m.
Sluice sill level	76.5 m.
Water spread area	4.10 sq.Km.
Capacity gross	28.57 m.cum.
Net	16.99 m.cum.
Dead	11.58 m.cum.
Catchment area	25.9 sq.km.
Average rainfall	2030 mm.
Design flood	265 cum/s.
Average annual yield	-
Surplus regulator	6 nos
Vents	6.1 m. x 4.6 m.

With all these developments there was still potential in Kodayar and Paralayar rivers. Therefore, additional extent in Pattanamkal area (on the left bank of Thambaraparani river) and in Radhapuram Taluk of the neighbouring Tirunelveli district was proposed for irrigation.

The Pechipparai and Perunchani dams were also raised, strengthened and improved during 1964-70 to take additional storage by raising the full reservoir level by 1.83 m. The capacity of Kodayar left bank canal was also increased. The new canal, Pattanamkal was excavated from Kodayar left bank canal to serve an extent of 5557 ha. in Kanniyakumari district. Another canal to serve 6883 ha. of dry land of Radhapuram area of Tirunelveli district was excavated from the tail end of Thovalai channel at Nilapparai.

The two reservoirs viz., Chittar-I and II, the improvement in storage capacity of Pechipparai and Perunchani reservoirs, the improvements in left bank canal and Thovalai channel and new channels Pattanamkal and Radhapuram form part of the scheme called Chittar-Pattanamkal scheme (1964-70). Also an extent of 513 ha. under Thirparappu weir was included for stabilisation (by special releases from Chittar-II) under the Chittar Pattanamkal Scheme.

In addition to the four irrigation reservoirs described above, two reservoirs for electricity were constructed by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board during 1963-71 in the upper reaches of Kodayar of 85 m.cu.m. and 0.8 m.cu.m. capacity for producing 100mw. electricity. The operation of these power reservoirs are linked to the irrigation reservoir operation of Pechipparai dam as per rules in force.

The details of tanks in this district are given below taluk-wise :–

Sl. No.	*Name of taluks*	*Rainfed tanks (Manavari)*	*System tanks (channel fed)*
1	Vilavancode Taluk	922	49
2	Agastiswaram Taluk	8	180
3	Kalkulam Taluk	464	614
4	Thovalai Taluk	92	118

CLIMATE, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY IN THE KODAYAR AND PATTANAMKAL COMMAND AREAS

The Kodayar command and Pattanamkal command areas, which cover almost the entire district, enjoy a semi-arid tropical climate with cool winter and warm to hot weather in summer. The minimum temperature ranges from 26.4°c to 30.51°c and the maximum varies from 32.54°c to 37.38°c.

The command area is characterised by a rugged sloping topography with terrain sloping towards the river courses and the sea. In the command area, three main soil groups are present. They are laterite type of soils, mixed types of red and alluvial soil, and red loam and laterite with coastal alluvium. The fertility of the soil varies largely in different parts of the district. The high acidity prevalent in the district is mainly due to the heavy rainfall and heavy leaching of bases in the hilly areas.

In the light of the historical sequence of irrigation developments, the irrigated areas of the district are grouped into two separate commands as below :-

(i) Kodayar command served by P.P. channel, Thovalai channel, Ananthanar channel and N.P. channel (total 21227 ha. of double crop paddy) and

(ii) Pattanamkal command served by Pattanamkal canal (5583 ha. of double crop paddy).

WATER RESOURCES – RAINFALL, RIVER AND GROUND WATER

The rainfall in the district averages about 1500 mm. per year. Both south west (June to September) and north east (October to December) monsoons contribute equally to the annual precipitation. There are considerable vagaries in the annual rainfall, both in time and space, from more than 2000 mm. at the dam sites in the north-west part to 800 to 900 mm. in the tail end of the irrigated areas in the south-east portions of the district.

Agriculture in Kodayar command is dependent more on the surface water, and exploitation of ground water is very limited. The ground water movement follows the general topography of the ground surface. The slope of the water table is towards south- east in the eastern half and towards south-west in the western half of the district. The Kodayar river is a gaining stream in its traverse as it receives ground water storage.

NATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Under the above project, it has been proposed to take up the Kodayar system for overall modernisation, for which a Project Report has been prepared by the Tamil Nadu P.W.D. after making extensive investigation and comprehensive study of the existing system in the light of the operational experiences gained during the past 15 years. The project report has been prepared by following the suggestions made in a report

resulting from a joint team of the Government of India and the World Bank which visited the Kodayar system in the Kanniyakumari district in December 1985.

The scheme proposals have been formulated giving due consideration to correcting the deficiencies in the system while simultaneously improving its overall efficiency. This is expected to result in overall savings in the water used for irrigation as well as increased crop production. The scheme, proposed to be completed in about 5 years at a cost of Rs.127 millions, is to be financed with World Bank assistance.

To tone up the system dificiencies and aiming at overall modernisation, the National Water Management Project envisages :-

(a) Rehabilitation of Kodayar left bank canal, Thovalai canal, N.P. channel, P.P. channel, Pattanamkal and Radhapuram canal by way of physical investments and improvements on renovating the canals, outlets, regulators, etc., standardisation of jeep tracks, improving the distribution network and communication systems.

(b) Optimum water use, through rotation and better control of water use.

These operational interventions and physical improvements, when implemented are expected to result in more equity of water distribution and consequently higher productivity.

Canal System : Surface water stored in reservoirs or diverted directly, is distributed through the canal irrigation network. A canal takes off from the head works of either a water storage dam or barrage or a diversion dam. Irrigation water flows through the complete canal system before it reaches the farmer's field to be irrigated. The canal network consists of canals, distributaries, water courses, and field channels.

* **The canal capacities and discharges in Kanniyakumari district**

Sl. No.	Name of Canal	Design Capacity in cum/sec.	Design duty l/S ha.	Length in kms. Main canal	Length in kms. Branch Distributary canal	No. of outlets Main canal	No. of outlets Branch Distributory canal	F.S. Depth
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Kodayar left bank canal	32.99	1.054	16.80	–	–	–	2.07
2	Thovalai channel	10.08	1.054	48.52	15.6	68	53	1.65
3	Nanchilnadu Puthanar canal	10.60	–	27.70	4.3	84	28	1.50
4	Ananthanar	4.76	1.054	24.0	45.6	71	143	1.05
5	P.P. Channel	9.77	1.054	30.00	93.0	72	292	145
6	Pattanamkal	5.78	0.986	43.07	92.0	109	102	1.65
7	Radhapuram canal	4.25	0.586	28.00	87.67	31	–	1.20
8	Pandiankal	22.37	1.054	2.20	–	–	–	–
9	Regulator kal	–	–	2.02	–	–	–	–

* Report of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kanniyakumari Division, Nagercoil, dated 12 May 1988.

1. Mullayar Reservoir Scheme : The Mullayar scheme was proposed across Mullayar river near Anducode village of Vilavancode taluk of Kanniyakumari district. The estimated cost of the scheme was Rs.1,170 lakhs. The scheme was proposed to irrigate 500 acres of new dry ayacut and to raise wet crops in 216 acres by way of stabilisation. The net additional food production anticipated is 789 tonnes. The scheme was under preliminary stage of investigation.

2. Modernisation of Kodayar Irrigation System :[77] The project contemplates modernisation of Kodayar Irrigation system, covering Kanniyakumari District, and part of Tirunelveli district (Radhapuram taluk). The scheme envisages stablisation of the entire existing ayacut, besides bridging the gap and setting right the deficiencies of the Kodayar system. By implementing the scheme, the following lands will be benefited:-

1	Stabilisation double wet	- 46188	acres	
2	Bridging the gap including new ayacut (wet)	- 18375	"	(556.68 ha.)
3	Bridging the gap including new ayacut (dry)	- 25520	"	(10332 ha.)

The benefit cost ratio of the scheme as per the norms of Central Water Commission works out to 3:93:1. The cost of the scheme works out to Rs.4,289 lakhs, as per 1986-87 schedule of rates. The scheme was under consideration of Government.

3. Mambazhathuraiyur Reservoir Scheme : The Mambazhathuraiyur reservoir scheme comprises the formation of a reservoir across Mambazhathuraiyur river with an effective capacity of 51 mcft. in Villukeeri village in Kalkulam taluk of Kanniyakumari district at an estimated cost of Rs.575 lakhs. The ayacut to be benefited is 192 ha. under stabilisation wet. The total land to be acquired is 40.97 ha. out of which 4.04 ha. are reserve forest lands. The additional food production due to implementation of the scheme will be 452 tonnes. The rate per tonne, acre and hectare, works out to Rs.1,27,212, Rs.60,526 and Rs.1,49,350 respectively. The B.C. ratio as per old norms works out to 0.19:1. The preliminary estimate was sent to Government for approval.

4. Poigai Reservoir Scheme : The Poigai reservoir scheme contemplates the formation of a reservoir with a capacity of 95.27 m.cft., across Poigaiar near Aralvoimozhi village in Thovala taluk of Kanniyakumari district, at an estimated cost of Rs.1087 lakhs. By implementation of the scheme, an extent of 653.85 ha. of land will be benefited. Additional food

production anticipated is 1484 tonnes. The rate per tonne acre and hectare works out to Rs.73,248/, Rs.67,307/ and Rs.1,66,208/ respectively. The B.C. ratio based on the Central Water Commission guidelines works out to 0.90:1. This scheme was sanctioned in G.O.M.S. No. 1925 Public Works Department, dated 2 December 1988.

THE NEYYAR PROJECT [78]

The excavation work of the left bank canal of the Neyyar project was inaugurated on 27th July 1958 by the then Chief Minister at Kaliakkavilai in the Kanniyakumari district.

The Neyyar project comprises construction of a gravity masonry dam across the Neyyar river in Kerala State at a place called Chempilamodu, about 30.4 km. south-east of Trivandrum. The water thus impounded will be utilized for irrigation of 13805.67 ha. by means of two channels-one on either side. the right side channel 33.6 km. long, will irrigate an area of 6072.87 ha. lying entirely in Kerala State. The left side channel, 38.4 km. long, will irrigate 7732.79 ha. lying partly in Kerala and partly in the limits of Tamilnadu (Kanniyakumari district).

The first stage of the project comprising the construction of the dam and the right side channel have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.143 lakhs. The second stage comprising the construction of the left side channel system at a cost of Rs.105 lakhs is programmed to be taken during the Second Five-Year Plan period. This channel up to 38.4 km. runs in Kerala State and thereafter in the State of Tamil Nadu is about 4048.58 ha. in Vilavancode taluk of Kanniyakumari district.

The channels and distribution systems lying in their territory will be excavated by the respective States. Including the proportions to cost of dam and headworks provided by Kerala State, the share of the State of Tamil nadu towards the cost of irrigating the 10,000 acres in their limits, is about Rs.92.28 lakhs.

TABLE

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Statement showing the name of tanks pertaining to Kodayar system and their ayacut area in-charge of Public Works Department :-

S.no. *(1)*	*Name of tank* *(2)*	*Ayacut under the tank* (IN ACRES) *(3)*
	Agastiswaram Taluk –	
1	Cherikulam	112.20
2	Thanumalaiyankulam	24.10
3	Puthankulam	25.21
4	Attu	6.50
5	Thamarakulam	18.20
6	Attakulam	32.40
7	Pallakulam	61.28
8	Poolankulam	97.16
9	Sabayarkulam	42.94
10	Keezhakannankulam	16.07
11	Ayyanarpudukulam	8.24
12	Cherkulam	60.00
13	Chalapathukulam	150.00
14	Vayilakulam	50.00
15	Thulukkankulam	196.42
16	Ptharakulam	5.00
17	Uachankulam	5.00
18	Narayanaerikulam	40.00
19	Purushothamanerikulam	80.00
20	Kurinthancikulam	80.00
21 22	Kalvettankuttinkulam Anakulam	20.50
23	Lakshmikulam	20.50
24	Poolankulam	102.95
25	Kadanpathukulam	96.69
26	Kandankulam	164.11

(1)	(2)	(3)
27	Nachiyarkulam	49.17
28	Pallikondarkulam	21.40
29	Kumarankulam	31.50
30	Parppanakulam	67.95
31	Kottuparakulam	35.65
32	Thanappiramanamkulam	60.77
33	Eyainainarkulam	62.11
34	Thanarajayankulam	20.78
35	Kothandasamarkulam	141.16
36	Chadayankulam	51.68.640
37	Thathiyarkulam	295.47.248
38	Vallikulam	83.00.545
39	Nagarkulam (Kallarkulam)	22.80.438
40	Nagarkulam (Vadaserikulam)	24.49.382
41	Uppanganerikulam	26.13.870
42 43	Paulkulam () Alavankulam ()	131.01
44	Kannimulakundu	30.00
45	Porumukulam	303.29
46	Ambilikulam	5.32
47	Nedumkulam	53.25
48	Murukulam	23.62
49	Amanjankulam	44.91
50	Mattiyankulam	38.98
51	Kalkulam	27.25
52	Inamkuzhikulam	78.38
53	Putheri Periakulam	233.11
54	Krishnankulam	5.16
55	Arasandakulam	29.20
56	Daniel Mahadwankulam	5.12
57	Ananthakrishnankulam	25.30
58	Melakadukkarakulam	95.50
59	Kaniyankulam	33.70
60	Minvaliyankulam	22.65
61	Madiyankulam	24.00

(1)	(2)	(3)
62	Panakulam	19.75
63	Attukulam	28.25
64	Krishnasamudrarakulam	100.62
65	Mikkamkulam	29.00
66	Eravikulam	30.00
67	Kaniyankulam	17.00
68	Thondansassambu	12.00
69	Kundankulam	7.00
70	Irattakulam	65.00
71	Chadiyankulam	75.00
72	Thellikulam	42.00
73	Attakulam	63.28
74	Azhagankulam	74.12
75	Padalakulam	5.15
76	Kankulam	20.21
77	Karumpatturkulam	45.02
78	Rajendrakulam	50.60
79	Mantharamputhoorkulam	57.16
80	Kadayanerikulam	42.59
81	Agastriarputhukulam	55.79
82	Achankulam	27.14
83	Kannimakurdukulam	12.21
84	Devakulam	93.43
85	Dakkarakulam	48.72
86	Lekshimiputhukulam	6.42
87	Mottakulam	24.42
88	Bagavatikulam	6.53
89	Kavarkulam	28.36
90	Manambakulam	101.65
91	Pannikundukulam	13.84
92	Ramanpathoerkulam	17.82
93	Vilaikannarkulam	32.21
94	Chinnakulam	3458.57
95	Karrakulam	21.47
96	Thuvaramkulam	32.17

(1)	(2)	(3)
97	Machimarkulam	9.64
98	Mavazhikulam	5.97
99	Palladikulam	5.00
100	Valiyakulam	163.73
101	Nedumkulam	8.18
102	Mambukulam	18.51
103	Anumankulam	10.60
104	Nandankulam	5.00
105	Mullankulam	5.00
106	Kollenkulam	5.00
107	Palakulam	6.10
108	Radathattikulam	25.39
109	Mecottukulam	9.18
110	Macherikulam	6.69
111	Oottukulam	16.01
112	Ottankulam	16.89
113	Gnarakulam	13.60
114	Sambakulam	13.72
115	Attukulam	11.53
116	Peyottankulam	19.07
117	Kurandikulam	58.05
118	Kirayarakulam	6.00
119	Thamarakulam	8.40
120	Rayankulam	17.63
121	Murippilakonattukulam	28.59
122	Anathakulam	57.27
123	Immarankulam	6.82
124	Vembanoorkulam	166.72
125	Porungankulam	71.53
126	Atthanimarkulam	125.33
127	Azhagankulam	21.40
128	Alathoorkulam	29.24
129	Puliangulam	19.82
130	Ramasamudramkulam	295.87
131	Udanparakulam	48.95

(1)	(2)	(3)
132	Chettikulam	65.46
133	Myladumaparakulam	139.33
134	Periakulam	37.59
135	Kangulam	31.63
136	Amaravathikulam	52.47
137	Nhavathivinayagankulam	14.19
138	Narikulam	169.95
139	Vachankulam	14.71
140	Nachiyarpathukulam	20.46
141	Kumarisalapathukulam	185.28
142	Kumaripathukulam	14.72.5
143	Thiyagasoundarikulam	28.20
144	Valasoundarikulam	18.89
145	Nagavathisamudrakulam	16.05
146	Ottappanaikulam	32.49
147	Piranthnrikulam	127.75
148	Mudaliarkulam	61.08
149	Punnarkulam	63.51.5
150	Pallakulam	100.21
151	Pottakulam	9.57
152	Chettikulam	9.65
153	Valasoundarikulam	159.68
154	Kallamparakulam	13.79
155	Suchindrakulam	739.27.817
156	Therkulam	779.34
157	Manichapathurikulam	77.55
158	Alwalkulam	21.15
159	Thandanayagamkulam	61.09
160	Pathiyakulam	8.35
161	Pallikondamkulam	19.00
162	Kundandikulam	18.08
163	Pangulam	151.82
164	Kollenkulam	30.88
165	Pandiyankulam	7.63
166	Maryyankulam	11.70

(1)	(2)	(3)
167	Kannancherikulam	77.25
168	Avinnakulam	125.50
169	Kottankulam	33.97
170	Perumankulam	24.51
171	Ramankulam	43.56
172	Mahadevanpattukulam	37.87
173	Oochankulam	31.01
174	Piramuttakulam	34.61
175	Kothanerikulam	43.46
176	Kuttuvankulam	19.31
177	Parakkakulam	517.75
178	Futhukulam	23.64
179	Kandukondankulam	2.50
180	Edapathakulam	45.00
181	Lekshimipattukulam	82.12
182	Ponnankulam	31.28
183	Ayyanpattikulam	34.62
184	Matharankulam	52.93
185	Varamarthandanputhukulam	101.30
186	Krishnankulam	18.95
187	Perumalkulam	10.65
188	Nambikulam	61.86
189	Melakannarkulam	124.25
190	Boothapandiyankulam	172.29
191	Choorakulam ()	141.83
192	Ponnagiramzhikulam ()	
193	Odiyakulam ()	100.37
194	Edayankulam	150.25
195	Puzhukollikulam ()	
196	Puzhukollikulam ()	
197	Karungulam ()	201.10
198	Chaenthanaserikulam ()	
199	Vumbatharkulam	115.63
200	Maruthankuzhikulam	112.20
201	Thiruvenganerikulam	91.66
202	Perianerikulam	169.51
203	Agasthiankulam	33.25

(1)	(2)	(3)
204	Nangakulam	92.84
205	Pottaikulam	14.18
206	Meniakulam	61.91
207	Thazhakudiykulam	46.82
208	Chenthiakulam	19.01
209	Thirupathisaramkulam	376.37
210	Keerakulam	26.62
211	Ennakulam	15.43
212	Puliyoorkurichikulam	150.00
213	Nachiyarpattukulam	25.00
214	Nambikulam	25.00
215	Deerakeralappanerikulam	400.00
216	Madakulam	50.00
217	Seethapalkulam	150.00
218	Poolankuzhikulam	75.00
219	Azhaganerikulam	30.00
220	Melakollarkuzhikulam	10.00
221	Pallankulam	50.00
222	Therkkalkulam	18.28
223	Vannankuzhikulam	3.34
224	Manaththittaikulam	48.38
225	Palkondankulam	9.66
226	Palkondankulam	
227	Pathukulam	88.94
228	Velankattukulam	55.58
229	Vikramanarikulam	64.50
230	Karaikandarkudikulam	6.15
231	Kanchiyaikulam	24.72
232	Vadakkankulam	7.78
233	Vadakkankulam	
234	Vadakkankulam	
235	Pandarakulam	7.43
236	Puliveeramkulam	19.71
237	Vaniyakuzhikulam	1.59
238	Gnarakulam	50.00

(1)	(2)	(3)
239	Deviarkulam	2.06
240	Vannankulam	6.10
241	Navitankulam	0.54
242	Chenbankuzhikulam	0.92
243	Mavadikulam	0.74
244	Meppanthirthkulam	1.47
245	Erampattikulam	1.44
246	Pillayaroothukulam	3.00
247	Veeraulikulam	187.31
248	Periakulam	104.70
249	Palikulam	8.51
250 251	Pottakulam () Pottakulam ()	25.02
252	Vairavikonathukulam	18.75
253	Kuttikulam	7.28
254	Peakulam	27.88
255	Edakottukulam	25.00
256	Kalladichankuzhikulam	12.00
257	Pulivarikulam	13.20
258	Theeroallakulam	79.38
259	Adayamadakulam	23.15
260	Eluppakadattykulam	12.49
261	Kattuvakonathukulam	4.85
262	Bhutharathankulam	2.89
263	Melachettikulam	2.30
264	Menimudarkarkulam	27.40
265	Variarkonathukulam	4.53
266	Nedupangankulam	8.00
267	Putherikulam	26.08
268	Thattanpallakulam	100.35
269	Elanganerikulam	16.94
270	Ilumichanparaikulam	9.70
271	Nainarkulam	9.91
272	Vazhimarichankulam	10.11
273	Vannankulam	3.93

(1)	(2)	(3)
274	Mulachikulam	9.25
275	Puyangankulam	3.42
276	Palamudarkulam	5.70
277	Misanganerikulam	6.75
278	Ariyavalamkodettikulam	12.27
279	Erankottaikulam	4.11
280	Erankollikulam	15.25
281	Mullikulam	27.53
282	Alanganarkulam	10.50
283	Ariyankadettikulam	31.70
284	Chankanerikulam	10.70
285	Thavalikulam	5.34
286	Vaniankulam	13.27
287	Pallamarthandankulam	10.50
288	Azhayanerikulam	5.00
289	Eliankonattukulam	4.93
290	Vishupurattukulam	114.37
291	Madapurattukulam	19.76
292	Devanerikulam	16.18
293	Vadankulam	5.33
294	Pechankulam	36.74
295	Nagarakulam	37.80
296	Chemmankulam	19.57
297	Vembadikulam	4.69
298	Therkumettukulam	17.93
Kalkulam Taluk –		
298a	Panankuzhikulam	9.80
299	Mancottukulam	9.35
300	Mathakulam	11.88
301	Kusavankulam	6.10
302	Panavilagathukulam	5.73
303	Kalvikulam	14.32
304	Koozhivahalayyakulam	24.19
305	Kunkuzha Akkiyadikulam	24.17

(1)	(2)	(3)
306	Kaithakulam	8.15
307	Attukulam	7.70
308	Kannankulam	8.84
309	Puthukulam	35.15
310	Kannankulam	7.96
311	Peyottuvakulam	16.75
312	Needuvalakulam	10.94
313	Palchakulam	9.65
314	Punnachakulam	15.99
315	Akkattukulam	16.42
316	Mulikulam	5.64
317	Pulakudiykulam	26.25
318	Ukulam	28.40
319	Kokkudikulam	12.68
320	Palottarakulam	8.90
321	Keezhameruthoorperumkulam	30.60
322	Melamaruthooraperumkulam	38.58
323	Maruvoorkulam	13.34
324	Kavukulam	5.38
325	Perumkottukulam	18.21
326	Mallikottukulam	7.56
327	Urakulam	12.60
328	Udappukulam	27.60
329	Thalayachakulam	14.93
330	Puthukulam	8.75
331	Manchadikulam	10.01
332	Gnarakuzhikulam	6.10
333	Perumkulam	43.20
334	Kaithakulam	15.35
335	Keezharkottikulam	6.95
336	Karunanikottukulam	6.58
337	Manakulam	8.57
338	Keralapuram Peruneerkulam	42.16
339	Vettikonathukattukulam	5.31
340	Meelakattukulam	12.21

(1)	(2)	(3)
341	Thachankulam	32.57
342	Bhoothakulam	15.73
343	Nullikulam	13.59
344	Veepankulam	20.14
345	Illupparayarkulam	9.69
346	Thevarakulam	5.15
347	Pottakulam	42.20
348	Machakulam	7.18
349	Nirnayakulam	47.94
350	Palakulam	48.82
351	Kanakulam Chettykulam	11.15
352	Kalavatukulam	12.93
353	Charottukulam	46.33
354	Nedumkulam	32.88
355	Perukulam	10.00
356	Kurinjikulam	7.00
357	Arunoothukulam	5.13
358	Somacherikulam	5.13
359 360	Pookuzhikulam () Madaathuvattukulam ()	45.80
361	Sasthankoilkulam	5.65
362	Puliykatnathukulam	45.32
363	Gnarakuzhikulam	6.98
364	Urakulam	5.20
365	Annikyakulam	19.19
366	Mankulam	37.26
367	Panavilaikulam	13.02
368	Chemdarikulam	8.89
369	Annuvettikulam	5.17
370	Cottukulam	12.46
371	Peruneeliyarakulam	5.70
372	Nagakulam	10.13
373	Sathankulam	32.73
374	Keriyamangalathikulam	23.12
375	Kattukulam	12.12
376	Sasthankoilkulam	15.85

(1)	(2)	(3)
377	Koothankuzhikulam	10.70
378	Kurangakulam	16.25
379	Esaloorkulam	106.79
380	Parayankulam	10.74
381	Velakulam	9.76
382	Karundikulam	20.88
383	Nedunkulam	7.60
384	Utharankulam	3.99
385	Periyakulam	172.90
386	Kakathankuzhukulam	9.91
387	Nadachikulam	5.84
388	Vembadykulam	9.10
389	Kannamparakulam	19.11
390	Kazhuvanparakulam	11.30
391	Punniyakulam	21.93
392	Alankuzhikulam	5.36
393	Uralinkulam	13 .25
394	Thengankuzhikulam	5.90
395	Valliambalkuzhikulam	5.50
396	Chadayankuzhikulam	10.17
397	Satharathankulam	15.61
398	Ammakulam	5.80
399	Perumkulam	120.67
400	Pookulam	40.60
401	Manchirakulam	41.60
402	Kurukuttikulam	25.20
403	Ananthavashikulam	12.16
404	Kaithottukulam	60.19
405	Nedunkulam	32.42
406	Arasankulam	12.60
407	Mekkarakulam	5.70
408	Manalikulam	31.90
409	Neelakulam	22.10
410	Anniyakulam	49.20
411	Padappankulam	17.60

(1)	(2)	(3)
412	Anamkulam	41.12
413	Pathirikulam	21.60
414	Poochakulam	15.60
415	Mathirakulam	13.28
416	Chembanarakulam	7.93
417	Thamarakulam	10.33
418	Arasakulam	126.26
419	Uttukulam	16.99
420	Parumkalkulam	27.75
421	Kannavarakulam	12.96
422	Manchakavikulam	5.98
423	Parikulam	11.97
424	Vellavarakulam	13.78
425	Chadayankuzhikulam	10.51
426	Ezhiyoorkulam	41.16
427	Cherkottkulam	28.73
428	Meelapupradukulam	12.21
429	Keezhapeyodukulam	7.93
430	Idayakottukulam	10.20
431	Iylikottukulam	8.44
432	Melandankulam	12.10
433	Koduvayakonathukulam	7.60
434	Thavittukulam	6.76
435	Puliyarakonathukulam	5.61
436	Chettyandarkulam	15.41
437	Cheruchettyandarkulam	13.90
438	Sundarakuzhikulam	14.67
439	Pullakulam	8.31
440	Thudippankulam	12.41
441	Ekkadakuzhikulam	9.47
442	Avanthakulam	8.40
443	Nayinkulam	10.41
444	Pappankulam	10.95
445	Sundaranainarkulam	7.79
446	Thamarakulam	8.99

(1)	(2)		(3)
447	Kollakulam		31.63
448	Kattukulam		14.67
449	Madyaiduvakulam		13.88
450	Naikulam		9.66
451	Punkarichellamkulam		45.20
452	Paraserikulam		55.98
453	Ambalathadykulam		15.50
454	Kuthirapanchankulam		43.33
455	Andarkulam pillaikulam		24.97
456	Devilankuzhikulam		11.70
457	Mohanarakuzhikulam		5.50
458	Karuppottukulam		22.25
459	Nettankuzhikulam		16.11
460	Nagakulam		35.13
461	Sundarakulam		5.25
462	Siloorkulam		55.16
463	Peruvilaikulam		38.84
464	Chemanchikulam		23.75
465	Pottakulam		11.77
466	Chettayarkulam		10.82
467	Chenkulam		20.94
468	Arappurakulam		19.57
469	Uttankuzhikulam		5.03
470	Piranthacherikulam		75.44
471	Ikiyan		316.59
472	Perakulam		60.85
473	Veerakulam		111.49
474	Iyyankulammukkattukulam		12.17
475	Kollankulam		6.43
476	Chenthancherikulam		9.40
477	Kothayarkonathukulam		11.20
478	Kuzavankonathukullam		12.27
479	Kalvettankuzhikulam	()	5.66
480	Keezhamavadikulam	()	
481	Palkulam		6.59
482	Annuvettikulam		11.00

(1)	(2)	(3)
483	Vannankulam	8.63
484	Kadamankottukulam	7.83
485	Keezhavannankulam	11.72
486	Keezhavannankulam	
487	Kollakulam	14.80
488	Mankkaraiputhukulam	28.39
489	Mankaraichenthamarikulam	7.22
490	Kodancherkulam	8.43
491	Nanganarkulam	12.05
492	Pulankulam	7.06
493	Munnottukulam	14.76
494	Thamaraikulam	24.40
495	Pambadikulam	14.03
496	Vedunkulam	11.47
497	Idakottukulam	11.98
498	Vilankakulam	23.26
499	Valiakulam Puthukulam	58.80
500	Pullancherikulam	7.02
501	Ayyappanarkulam	17.97
502	Poonkottuvamakulam	13.02
503	Perunchakulam	10.17
504	Arasankottukulam	8.00
505	Erattakulam	7.67
506	Chettykulam	5.64
507	Nedunkulam	11.17
508	Urayikonathuthmarakulam	5.59
509	Nedumkulam	10.89
510	Alankottukattuvaikulam	8.61
511	Kattatukulam	5.62
512	Veeyankulam	6.42
513	Thazhayankulam	8.63
514	Mavadikulam	5.25
515	Melakulam	7.19
516.	Alankulam	7.78
517	Pandarakonathuputhukulam	11.09
518	Pandarakonathupandarakulam	5 66

(1)	(2)	(3)
519	Kumarankaniyarkulam	5.95
520	Eswarankulam	6.17
521	Thazhayankulam	8.03
522	Kovilkulamthamarakulam	6.36
523	Vaniyankulam	6.69
524	Malamankottuayanarkulam	5.95
525	Gnarattuelanjiakulam	7.75
526	Karottukulam	5.89
527	Karottunaduvattukulam	7.10
528	Malavilanagakulam	6.12
529	Kadettykulam	8.90
530	Kurunthenkottukulam	7.32
531	Gnarottukaniyankulam	8.64
532	Serenserykulam	6.05
533	Vachakulam	6.47
534	Odaparachakarakulam	7.66
535	Kuthirakottukulam	7.56
536	Navithankottukulam	7.11
537	Kannandankonamponthukulam	6.67
538	Themmadikonamkulam	5.02
539	Karakuzhikulam	8.76
540	Kodamankottukulam	6.63
541	Kutharakulam	7.11
542	Nagakonthuggakulam	5.50
543	Thadakkakulam	9.61
544	Esvankulam	7.98
545	Thachankulam	9.38
546	Mutharunnikulam	9.59
547	Nathankuzhikulam	8.03
548	Paruthikuzhikulam	5.31
549	Keezhamankuzhikulam	6.72
550	Meelamankuzhi	6.72
551	Pottakuzhikulam	6.72
552	Pappankottukulam ()	5.77
553	Kumppakottukulam ()	
554	Thirukuzhikulam	7.72

(1)	(2)	(3)
555	Kompakotukulam	7.96
556	Maramparampu	6.90
557	Kanjirankottukulam	5.40
558	Perumakulam	5.42
559	Kundukulam	6.95
560	Neerazhi	8.17
561	Kundukulam	50.75
562	Kundukulam	6.25
563	Kundukulam	13.22
564	Kundukulam	5.87
565	Kundukulam	23.47
566	Kundukulam	14.82
567	Kundukulam	7.95
568	Kundukulam	5.07
569	Kundukulam	11.50
570	Kundukulam	32.00
571	Kundukulam	9.25
572	Kannamangalamkulam	10.61
573	Vellaiyasanthikulam	7.43
574	Pakkulam	5.35
575	Neerazhi	12.13
576	Neerazhi	6.91
577	Neerazhi	13.25
578	Parayankulam	9.94
579	Annupattikulam	25.56
580	Kundukulam	23.73
581	Mukunthankulam	13.86
582	Perumkulam	7.76
583	Vannaparambukulam	39.35
584	Kalpatyakulam	96.28
585	Periyakulam	521.15
586	Akathakuzhikulam	5.93
587	Pilakodukulam	6.34
588	Velarakulam	7.46
589	Puthuvettikulam Murngapattukulam	5.38

(1)	(2)	(3)
590	Pathirottukulam	13.86
591	Kannattukulam	9.02
592	Kokkotukulam	11.88
593	Uthiradakulam	6.40
594	Mekkottukulam	32.59
595	Kottaramkullam	18.59
596	Nediyankottukulam	7.35
597	Nachikulam	24.01
598	Ilampalakulam	8.66
599	Vazhottukulam	22.07
600	Peunkulam	73.07
601	Olakottuparambukulam	5.43
602	Narakottukulam	5.66
603	Puthukuzhkulam	5.31
604	Nelpattakulam	5.11
605	Manalacharikulam	6.12
606	Kulapattukulam	20.70
607	Villaiyakulam	77.33
608	Karyakulam	65.45
609	Erattakulam	6.48
610	Vattarkulam	7.01
611	Magarankulam	11.25
612	Vedankangherykulam	11.25
613	Alanjikulam	19.37
614	Kollayikulam	27.98
615	Puthukulam	60.20
616	Veerakeralkulam	11.00
617	Amaravathikulam	67.71
618	Thottipalamkulam	8.60
619	Thamarakulam	8.88
620	Thamarakulam	22.97
621	Thudichikulam	3.38
622	Palakulam	11.77
623	Vidarikulam	7.09
624	Valiyakulam	11.11

(1)	(2)	(3)
625	Velankulam	8.65
626	Thengankuzhikulam	7.00
627	Pthiramangalamputhulam	8.21
628	Kattukulam	7.12
629	Kalkulam	35.18
630	Kappiyaraputhukulam	15.12
631	Kappiyarkulam	68.46
632	Nedunkulam	6.29
633	Pulimughutenkunjakulam	49.57
634	Vembakottukulam	10.82
635	Edakkulam	14.48
636	Kattiyodukulam	10.41
637	Pilakudikulam	25.36
638	Poonakulam	17.25
639	Arasanerikulam	5.00
640	Parakudykonathukulam	5.00
641	Poatnikulam	10.00
642	Perumakulam	100.00
643	Kannamangalathukulam	50.00
644	Mullavelikulam	7.00
645	Kattukulam	22.42
646	Arasankulam	8.33
647	Marakavookulam	5.38
648	Mylakulam	14.81
649	Chemantharkulam	5.61
650	Alankulam	37.57
651	Manalikulam	10.27
652	Kurakottukulam	11.77
653	Anthiyakulam	29.2
654	Pandarakulam	57.34
655	Parakkamangalathukulam	25.82
656	Kaithakottukulam	53.10
657	Peyottankulam	5.33
658	Puthukulam	14.00
659	Azhiyankulam	18.43

(1)	(2)	(3)
660	Thiruvikramaserikulam	10.76
661	Kafukuzhikulam	8.76
662	Thattarakulam	9.61
663	Kannottukulam	10.32
664	Chettuvankottpillaikulam	31.62
665	Kallupattakulam	2.30
666	Kattukulam	2.92
667	Pechikulam	3.68
668	Puachalkulam	3.72
669	Alamottukulam	2.90
670	Suvarakotttukulam	3.60
671	Machukulam	4.60
672	Idakulam	0.20
673	Velayankulam	3.28
674	Kattivarottukulam	1.88
675	Thettankulam	2.20
676	Kattupakathukulam	1.10
677	Marankulam	3.53
678	Kallankozhikulam	1.48
679	Idayankulam	4.36
680	Kanukarakulam	1.57
681	Kaiyalakonathukulam	0.53
682	Kollankunathukulam	2.16
683	Majadikulam	4.80
684	Vayakottukulam	3.55
685	Karikudikulam	4.81
686	Anajhuvattikulam	3.88
687	Sooratnankulam	2.61
688	Thulukankulam	3.65
689	Kattukulam	4.70
690	Kalavarkulam	4.80
691	Chammankulam	0.02
692	Somacharikulam	1.00
693	Vagalkulam	3.10
694	Nanankulam	0.68

(1)	(2)	(3)
695	Somacharikulam	0.50
696	Pirathankuzhikulam	14.20
697	Chanianeerkulam	0.01
698	Chenlikulam	0.20
699	Erumbanakulam	2.50
700	Panyankulam	3.28
701	Vattiaramankonathukulam	0.06
702	Thattankulam	4.22
703	Alamparakulam	3.64
704	Puliyankulam	4.50
705	Kannikannimarkuzhikulam	1.00
706	Vedakulam	3.92
707	Olluppukonathukulam	2.59
708	Thevijakulam	4.77
709	Pandarkulam	0.01
710	Nedumkulam	3.83
711	Korakuzhikulam	3.83
712	Perumankonathukulam	4.10
713	Pathirikulam	0.16
714	Koduvakarakulam	3.43
715	Sinianthiruthukulam	4.18
716	Kannanvarakulam	2.28
717	Kulatharkulam	2.10
718	Karichakulam	4.65
719	Kollankuzhikulam	3.77
720	Soorankudikulam	3.78
721	Mylottukulam	2.90
722	Vaniyankulam	4.35
723	Pudukuzhikulam	4.47
724	Kodupakuzhikulam	1.18
725	Nachikonathikulam	1.47
726	Alamkottukulam	2.19
727	Kavadikulam Thankkuzhi	0.99
728	Thiruthukuzhikulam	0.30
729	Kunjankuzhikulam	1.54

(1)	(2)	(3)
730	Kodankuzhikulam	3.93
731	Mallankuzhikulam	1.46
732	Vanankulam	0.75
733	Vempadipuduthiruthukulam	1.97
734	Ulankulam	1.73
735	Narasingamarkulam	4.19
736	Pudukulam	3.99
737	Thirichanakulam	2.98
738	Pottakulam	4.90
739	Pudukotukulam	2.99
740	Manamutikulam	1.20
741	Nachimarkulam	3.42
742	Chandrankulam	2.22
743	Chettipadukonathukulam	1.28
744	Thuvarankulam	2.01
745	Malaranchakuzhi	1.05
746	Mannimarkuzhi	1.33
747	Malamvadikulam	2.46
748	Kunnanerkuzhiottukulam	2.19
749	Vannankulam	4.65
750	Thattamvilaiathuvelenkulam	2.78
751	Pattankonathu Ezhukulam	2.80
752	Kattimankuttuezhakulam	1.25
753	Manamkonathuvanankulam	1.92
754	Suriyandiodai Chettikulam	3.36
755	Ottankulam Ananthavattikulam	3.17
756	Thirumanthakulam	1.90
757	Azhavankulam	1.29
758	Naduvoorkurichikulam	3.03
759	Anthuvattikulam	3.57
760	Manaliyarakonam illupakulam	31.73
761	Cherukottukulam	3.57
762	Akarankulam	1.59
763	Elyankulam	4.50
764	Cheruppankottuvenkulam	3.44

(1)	(2)	(3)
765	Cheruthamarkulam	4.11
766	Alamilai Thirumangalkulam	1.79
767	Kalaythankuzhikulam	2.39
768	Keezhpulayanpallanthikulam	3.40
769	Melapallathukulam	4.02
770	Vaniyankulam	2.41
771	Alanvilai Ammikkuzhikulam	2.26
772	Odaimarichankulam	0.06
773	Kuzhipallamvadakaikulam	1.72
774	Kurikkulam	4.76
775	Kannapottalmadyalkulam	0.99
776	Navolivettithirthukulam	0.62
777	kannanpottalvettithiruthukulam	1.42
778	Kuzhipallamvadakaiodaimarichankulam	1.96
779	Alanvilai Odaimarichankulam	0.75
780	Alanvilai Karungaliodamarichankulam	0.96
781	Kannan Pottalodaimarichankulam	0.70
782	Chinnankulam	1.23
783	Veervilaiathkulam	4.33
784	Kurunthankuzhikulam	1.49
785	Karottupendurakulam	3.14
786	Thodukuzhikulam	1.03
787	Pottakuzhikulam	0.61
788	Manakattuvannankulam	0.46
789	Ramanpudurpandarakulam	1.69
790	Odupparakoilankulam	4.26
791	Kandannarayankulam	4.20
792	Chettikulam	3.02
793	Ethamparakulam	2.67
794	Pasupathikulam	1.54
795	Maduvakulam	2.65
796	Pottanamkulam	2.84
797	Naduvathukenathukulam	3.19
798	Anjalkulam	4.34
799	Neyyankuzhikulam	2.38

(1)	(2)	(3)
800	Gnarettuvalankenathukulam	0.59
801	Parayankulam	3.27
802	Alankulam	3.50
803	Kakkandankulam	3.50
804	Deriyandankulam	1.70
805	Chakarivilaimanikulam	2.53
806	Chettikulam	0.56
807	Amukuzhikulam	0.52
808	Bambapattaikulam	2.37
809	Kudumiyankottuthankulam	1.14
810	Chettivilaivettithiruthu Kottapuzhithanikulam	0.47
811	Do	0.36
812	Do	0.42
813	Pottakuzhikulam	1.54
814	Thumbavilaivivettuthiruthu	1.07
815	Eriyakulam	1.71
816	Keezapalayanpallathukulam	3.57
817	Keezavilaithunnakulam	2.82
818	Puduvilaithanikulam	0.55
819	Aluvilaikaniyakulam	2.95
820	Vathikonathukulam	4.08
821	Kuruthikulam	1.12
822	Pattanvilaikulam	1.64
823	Sathanparakulam	4.41
824	Sakiyankottuvannankulam	3.72
825	Vdayankonathuparayankulam	1.76
826	Thamathuvilayanpadiyankulam	0.37
827	Cherukuzhikonapottakulam	4.03
828	Adaviyarkulam	2.31
829	Malamkottathupottakuzhi	0.87
830	Theniadikonthathuthengadadi	2.14
831	Koonathankattuvilaikuzhi	2.31
832	Pattakuzhikulam	3.35
833	Panuookkonathuodakulam	0.44
834	Kunttuhukulam	1.87

(1)	(2)	(3)
835	Vambiyarkonathukulam	4.45
836	Kumbakenattukulam	2.25
837	Vadakaithanikuzhi	0.89
838	-Do-	0.64
839	Nandthavanthu Thunsankuzhi	4.50
840	Themgaipalam Eswarankulam	1.30
841	Manakuzhikokulam	3.97
842	Neralikulam	1.96
843	Kundukulam	3.66
844	Neralikulam	2.39
845	Mankuzhikullam	4.56
846	Valliykonamkulam	1.29
847	Kundukulam	0.20
848	Kundukulam	0.31
849	-Do-	1.78
850	-Do-	2.38
851	-Do-	4.99
852	-Do-	3.47
853	-Do-	4.53
854	-Do -	3.52
855	Neerali	2.41
856	-Do-	2.62
857	-Do-	2.75
858	-Do-	1.53
859	-Do-	4.28
860	-Do-	3.30
861	Nedumkulam	2.48
862	Chadayankulam	3.09
863	Pattikulam	2.29
864	Pattikulam	0.90
865	Kundukulam	1.81
866	Ochankulam	0.72
867	Thuvarapallikulam	4.11
868	Thaattankulam	1.90
869	Murvangakottukaniyarkulam	2.42

(1)	(2)	(3)
870	Velaydankulam	3.70
871	Pandiyankulam	4.19
872	Sripandarakonathukulam	1.61
873	Pattankonathukulam	2.69
874	Akkappankulam	4.59
875	Kollamkulam	3.85
876	Anandavilaikulam	3.74
877	Chettikulam	2.59
878	Kurumavilaikulam	4.39
879	Veparavilakikulam	3.62
880	Olakottuchanttidakulam	2.67
881	Wdaancharikulam	2.42
882	Kattukulam	3.23
883	Palakulam	1.20
884	Maruthankottukulam	4.10
885	Maruthankottukulam	0.68
886	Paikulam	3.72
887	Ponnanikulam	1.84
888	Pottakulam	1.70
889	Murupanakulam	0.42
890	Pudukulam	3.81
891	Illupakulam	1.54
892	Kalikulam	0.77
893	Kalikulam	1.06
894	Kolakulam	3.17
895	Kattukulam	0.36
896	Kattukulam	1.30
897	Paruthaikulam	2.28
898	Paruthaikulam	0.72
899	Thengankuzhikulam	1.66
900	Oorankulam	8.44
901	Kallikattukulam	9.15
902	Puthenkulam	0.41
903	Kuzhikulam	11.67
904	Pulimpallikulam	19.90

(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*
905	-Do-	0.75
906	Ponamkurikulam	0.35
907	Nedumkulam	25.45
908	Kuthiyakulam	25.72
909	Vallichirakulam	35.00
910	Kuthikulam	13.97
911	Kannukulam	4.74
912	Puthukulam	13.20
913	Chirakulam	25.65
914	Pirakal Amkathukulam	3.85
915	Pirakalkulam	2.65
916	Elayamparkulam	2.55
917	Kannammakuthirchakulam	5.11
918	Thaltankonathukulam	4.13
919	Kurnikottukattukulam	2.00
920	Illanchikulam	5.17
921	Chembanathukulam	3.12
922	Pulakulam	10.00
923	Manthakulam	25.00
924	Neerazhy	1.20
925	Thottakulam	1.15
926	Parakulam	2.57
927	Mecherikulam	2.50
928	Uttakulam	7.00
929	Amuvathikulam	5.80
930	Kuttakavakulam	3.90
931	Gnarakulam	15.00
932	Chernkottavilaikulam	20.00
933	Pudukulam	7.13
934	Narakuzhikulam	4.79
935	Arumkottukulam	5.85
936	Kuramarkottukulam	15.00
937	Kavikulam	25.00
938	Neerazhikulam	3.81
939	Vemkuzhikulam	10.20

(1)	(2)	(3)
940	Kavookulam	3.42
941	Mundakottukulam	12.00
942	Ukkikulam	15.00
943	Nambikulam	10.20
944	Thittamathukulam	35.00
945	Kottachmakulam	30.00
946	Samiyarkulam	3.42
947	Udamboorkulam	12.00
948	Mankulam	6.00
949	Remkulam	25.00
950	Palkulam	20.00
951	Neerazhikulam	30.00
952	Pudukulam	6.86
953	Udappakulam	4.40
954	Perumkulam	4.45
955	sottukulam	12.46
956	Maravoorkulam	22.73
957	Kamathiyoorkulam	4.45
958	Sarvoorkulam	12.46
959	Nedumkulam	22.73

Source : Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Public Works Department, Madras, Report dated 9 November 1987.

The names of the non-system tanks, with its ayacut area, in charge of Public Works Department, are given below :–

NON-SYSTEM TANK [79]

Sl. No. (1)	Name of Taluk (2)	Name of tank (3)	Ayacut under the tank (IN ACRES) (4)
1	Thovalai	Chenbagaramanputhoor periakulam	213.49

Abstract

Sl. No. (1)	Classification of tanks (2)	Total No. (3)	Up to 100 acres (4)	101 to 200 acres (5)	201 to 500 acres (6)	Above 500 acres (7)	Total ayacut acres (8)
1.	System tanks	960	907	42	7	4	19186.98
2.	Non-system tank	1	–	–	–	–	213.49
	Total	961	907	42	7	4	19400.47

Special Minor Irrigation Programme works undertaken in Kanniyakumari district from 1970-86 are given below :–

Sl. No. (1)	Name of work (2)		D.R.No. (3)	Estimate amount (4)
				(Rs.)
1.	Special Repairs	to Chengankottukulam of Methukummal Village	114 I/73-74	5,250
2.	Do	Kandankulam in Eraviputhur village	115 I/73-74	35,500
3.	Do	Vilavannarkulam in Midalam village	121 I/73 -74	5,600
4.	Do	Palachakulam in Valvatchagostam Village	126 I/73-74	5,200
5.	Do	Mukkuvaserikulam in Ponmanai Village	127 I/73-74	6,100
6.	Do	Chadaya nerikulam in Agasthiswaram Village	131 I/73-74	10,200
7.	Do	Kaniyankulam in Vadasery village.	136 I/73-74	14,000
8.	Do	Kappiara Kulam in Kappiarakulam.	137 I/73-74	14,000
9.	Do	Adothukulam of Edaicode Village.	138 I/73 -74	5,500
10.	Do	Salaipudukulam in Kulasekarapuram Village.	142 I/73-74	16,000
11.	Do	Poolankulam in Eraniel Village	143 I/73-74	5,700
12.	Do	Kannanoor in Attoor Village :	144 I/73-74	5,900
13.	Do	Pandarakonathu chirakulam of Kathanallor village	145 I/73-74	5,700

14.	Special Repairs	Oluriakulam in Keelzhkulam Village	146 I/73-74	5,250
15.	Do	Murugakottu Karijirankulam in Volachel Village	147 I/73-74	4,600
16.	Do	Pommakulam of Nallorr Village	150 I/73-74	5,200
17.	Do	Ayokkothukulam in Attoor Village	151 I/73-74	13,000
18.	Do	to Palakulam of Thiruvattar Village	152 I/73-74	10,000
19.	Do	Perumkulam in Methukummal Village	156 I/73-74	29,500
20.	Do	The IVth Cross barin the Surplus Course of Devakulam	160 I/73-74	2,000
21.	Do	Perumgalkulam in Aloor Village	161 I/73-74	30,500
22.	Do	Kallikulam of Killiyoor Village	162 I/73-74	24,000
23.	Do	Kaithakulam of Kollencode.	182 I/73-74	7,400
24.	Do	Kollakulam of Arumana Village.	183 I/73-74	13,500
25.	Do	Venkanji Melaperumkulam of Kollencode village.	184 I/73-74	24,000

Source : Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation, PWD - Report dated 23 July 1987.

The following schemes were also taken up during 1970-1986 :-

Sl. No.	*Name of scheme*	*CR/CER No.*	*Estimate amount* iN LAKHS)
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
1.	Special Repairs to Karumpattukulam, Thovalai village, Thovalai taluk	CR1 I/72-73	0.630
2.	Converting the existing Mudkoramby called mission dam in Thamaraikulam Village, Agasthiswaram taluk.	CR 10	I/72-73 1.600
3.	Reconstruction of existing Chozhanthittai anicut as regulator across Pazhayar in Agasthiswaram taluk	CE (I)s PKK 1/73-74	5.060
4.	Removing and extending the foreshorekal of Parakkai Vadakkukulam to feed Parakkai Thenkulam and Palkulam improvements and improvements to these tanks	CR No.7 I/73-74	0.770
5.	Diversion of Alathurayar water from Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari district to Panagudy area in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district	original CE(I)'s P.TN KK I/74-75	21.835

		R.E.C.E.'s (M.I.) No. 25CE MI/80-81	32,600
6.	Extension of Kumari dam across Pazhayar river in Agasthiswaram taluk of Kanniyakumari district.	CER 20 CEI /79-80 R.E.	13.827 17.450
7.	Poigai Improvement scheme	CE (I)'s No.25 CRI/79-80	21.60

Source : Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation - Madras, Report dated 23 July 1987.

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* * *

CHAPTER – 5

INDUSTRIES

Industrial growth of a district is conditioned by the availability of natural resources, infrastructural facilities, transport and technical know-how. The extent to which the above have helped building up industries in the district is discussed in this chapter.

Comprised of certain taluks of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State, the present Kanniyakumari district was formed on 1 November 1956 as a result of the reorganisation of States on linguistic basis.

This district is the smallest in the State of Tamil Nadu (with the exception of the district of Madras) lying at the southern most tip of the country. As in the case of the rest of the districts in the State of Tamil Nadu, the economy of this district is also agriculture based. However, endowed with a lovely coast line, rich mineral resources like ilmenite, rutile, etc., a second line of economy is seen.

As is extended of an area with a sea coast, marine fishing has also its own contribution to make towards the district's economy. Another popular and enterprising industry is the turning out of fibre from coconut husks. The rubber plantation which covers an extensive area at present, came up only during the beginning of this century. Handloom industry flourished especially at Vadesery, Kottar and Palliyady even though raw cotton is not locally available. Perhaps the conducive climate for handloom industry and the talent of a section of the people combined, contribute to the flourishing of the industry.

With all this, there had been no scientifically organised sector to promote these industries. A few individuals, therefore, enjoyed a monopoly over these industries (tiny industries) and industrial promotion was not their interest. The result, there were no large scale industries, to speak of, at that time.

The first large scale industry ever to come up was only in the year 1955 under the private sector and this was the position when this area was transferred to the then Madras State in 1956.

Taking note of the performance of the industries and the incentives which are considered necessary for their promotion, the Government stepped in and as a result, a few public sector enterprises came into the scene for implementing these policies of the Government. These arrangements of the Government also helped to ease out the middlemen and thereby loosen the stranglehold of the affluent people over these tiny industries.

Old Time Industries : As explained earlier, the old time industries in the district are handloom weaving, wood carving, coconut shell carving, village smithy, stone carving, chank industry, oil extraction, etc. While these industries stood the test of time the once famous gold and silver brocaded fabrics of Kottar wilted and they have become almost extinct due to lack of encouragement.

The crisis faced by the handloom industry during the early 50's led to the Government both the Centre as well as the State, to come forward, to ease the situation. The Government of India on their part established "The All India Handloom Board" and in addition created the handloom development cess fund which made all mill made cloth to attract cess. The State Government for their share established "The Tamil Nadu Handloom and Textiles Department" and "The Tamil Nadu Handloom Development Corporation". The co-operatives also were involved in the handloom industry which helped in obtaining supply of yarns and setting up of looms. They also engaged themselves in the purchase of the finished products and market them. Many co-optexe cetres and their sales emporia throughout Tamil Nadu stand testimony to the part, the co-operatives play in the field of handloom fabric production and marketing. Besides the above public sector undertaking, others such as SIDCO, TIIC, SIPCOT, etc., also contribute significantly towards industrialisation, and thereby a dramatic change in the industrial facade of the district has been brought about, especially during the seventies.

State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) : SIPCOT, a public limited company wholly owned by the Government of Tamil Nadu is playing a prominent role in the promotion and development of medium and major industries in the district. Kanniyakumari district is an industrially developing district in Tamil Nadu.

SIPCOT extends term loan to new medium and large scale units whose project cost is below Rs.3 crores and existing medium and large scale units embanking on expansion/ diversification/ modernisation involving project cost not exceeding Rs.5 crores.

SIPCOT offers loan up to Rs.9 lakhs. New unit set up in Kanniyakumari district is eligible for concessional finance. So far two units in Kanniyakumari district are assisted by SIPCOT. The details are given below[1] :-

Name of the unit & location	*Products*	*SIPCOT's assistance*	*Project cost*
		(RUPEES IN LAKHS)	
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
1. Prabha Beverages Vilavancode taluk	Soft drinks	90.00	150.00
2. Hotel Rajam, Nagercoil	Hotel	44.00	72.00

Medium and major units set up in Kanniyakumari district are eligible for IFST loan (Interest Free Sales Tax loan). Existing units undertaking substantial expansion/diversification are eligible to get IFST loan, equivalent to sales tax paid by them for a period of three years, up to the year in which application is made, subject to a maximum of 25 per cent of fixed assets created for the proposed unit or Rs.50 lakhs, whichever is less. New units are eligible for every year during the first six years of production, IFST loan equivalent to the sales tax paid by them during that year. Each year the loan will be subject to a maximum of 20 per cent lakhs (whichever) is less with an overall monetary ceiling of Rs.1 crore spread over to six year period.. The district is eligible for 10 per cent Central subsidy under 'C' category. Thovalai taluk of Kanniyakumari district is eligible for State subsidy equivalent to 15 per cent of the fixed capital investment of Rs. 18 lakhs, whichever is less. [1]

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (TIIC) : TIIC, a public sector undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu, plays a significant role in the industrial development of the district. It has been laying emphasis on assistance to developing small and medium scale industries which generate larger employment opportunities.

Activities of the TIIC in Kanniyakumari District are as follows :–

Industrial units benefited and amount sanctioned between 1975 and 1987 :-

Year (1)	No. (2)	Amount (3) (RS. IN LAKHS)
1975–76	5	34.65
1976–77	9	72.29
1977–78	3	7.15
1978–79	11	16.07
1979–80	20	8.26
1980–81	97	70.43
1981–82	123	82.32
1982–83	45	32.59
1983–84	95	84.64
1984–85	108	115.17
1985–86	115	83.75
1986–87	124	159.22

Assistant Manager (E & P) TIIC Madras, Report dated 17 November 1986.

Areas in Agastiswaram, Kalkulam, Vilavancode and Thovalai taluks are eligible for 10 per cent Central investment subisdy. Thovalai taluk, besides, is eligible for 15 per cent State capital subsidy.

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited[2] (TIDCO) : TIDCO is also keen on establishing some medium and large scale industries in the district.

Power : The Kodayar hydro electric project is the source of power supply. There are two power houses, viz., Kodayar power houses I and II here. The first power house became operational on 2 January 1971 with installed capacity of 60 MW. and the second in November 1971 with an installed capacity of 40 MW. The actual generation of electricity in these two power houses from the year of installation is as below :–[3]

	Year	Name of the power houses (in mu)	
		Kodayar I	Kodayar II
	(1)	(2)	(3)
1	1970-71	11	–
2	1971-72	85	36
3	1972-73	84	60
4	1973-74	149	77
5	1974-75	130	63
6	1975-76	175	79
7	1976-77	101	49
8	1977-78	117	59
9	1978-79	190	81
10	1979-80	251	98
11	1980-81	106	50
12	1981-82	165	76
13	1982-83	178	68
14	1983-84	148	69
15	1984-85	198	46
16	1985-86	170	70

Large Scale Industries[4]

Sl.No. (1)	Name and location (2)	Line of Production (3)	Employment (4)
1	Kanniyakumari District Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd., Aralvoimozhi	Cotton Yarn	655
2	Nagammal Spinning Mills, Nagercoil	Cotton Yarn	375
3	Indian Rare Earths Limited, Manavalakurichi	Beneficiation of rare earths	805
4	TAC floor Company, Ammandivilai	Coir mat and mattings	142
5.	M/s. Prabha Beverages Ltd., Marthandam	Soft Drinks	51

Minerals and mineral based Industries : The beach sands at Manavalakuruchi as said earlier are rich in mineral deposits like ilmenite, monazite, etc. The other minerals available in the district are garnet, zircon and rutile, etc.

The then Travancore-Cochin Government set up a factory at Manavalakurichi where the sand was processed and the ilmenite and monazite were separated. Ilmenite finds a good market in the United Kingdom, Japan and other foreign countries while the monazite finds its use in the Indian Rare Earths Limited at Alwaye.

When the States were reorganised, the above concern was taken over by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1956. It has provided employment for about 200 persons, and the production was approximately 40 tonnes of ilmenite per day as in 1956.

During the same year subsequently the Government of India, under the Companies Act, established a Corporation registered under the name and style, the Travancore Mineral Concerns (Private) Limited, the idea being to bring about a merger of the various private sector units set up by the State owned Corporations of Tamil Nadu and Kerala which were engaged in this industry.

Subsequently in 1965 this Company was re-registered as the Indian Rare Earths Limited which afforded employment to 805 persons as in 1988. The annual production was approximately, as below :–

1.	Ilmenite	-	72,000	metric	tonnes
2.	Zircon	-	5,000	"	"
3.	Garnet	-	5,000	"	"
4.	Monazite	-	4,000	"	"
5.	Sillimanite	-	300	"	"
6.	Rutile	-	15,000	"	"
7.	Zirconium exychloride	-	2	"	"
8.	Zirconium Oxide	-	10	"	"

Heavy Mineral Concentrate stack, Indian Rare Earths Ltd.,
- Manavalakurichi

Zurconium Oxide plant - Indian Rare Earths Ltd.
- Manavalakurichi

THE INDIAN RARE EARTHS LIMITED - MANAVALAKURICHI : The Indian Rare Earths Limited, Manavalakurichi, is the only major Industry of Kanniyakumari district, which is industrially a developing district. It is essentially a mineral benefication industry. Its raw material is the mineral sands available in the district in abundance. In fact, the availability of the sand is the only reason for locating this industry here.

Kanniyakumari district is blessed with natural resources in the form of valuable minerals called atomic minerals. These minerals are ilmenite, monazite, zircon, rutile, carnet, sillimanite and leucoxene (also known as brown ilmenite).

These minerals, though found in small quantities in almost all over the district, are found in abundance in Manavalakurichi beach in a stretch spreading about 2 km. west of Valliar river mouth. Considerable seasonal deposits are also found along the beaches of Midalam. Vattakottai and Leepuram on the eastern side of the peninsula are the other places where these deposits are found to occur. Indian Rare Earths Limited, is collecting sands from all these places for the purpose of beneficiation.

Origin : These minerals are believed to be the ultimate disintegration production of the western ghats brought to the river by the torrential rain. These are again carried by the river into the sea. In the sea, because of the peculiar churning action and turbulance, these sands are thrown back into the shore by the waves. The occurrence of these minerals in the rocks of western ghats, in the river beds of Valliar which originates from the western ghats and flows into the Arabian sea and the presence of rich deposit along this river mouth, all add weight to this belief.

History : It was the Germans who discovered the presence of the minerals and first started the separation plant at this place. Till then the local people were not at all aware of the value of these assets present just under their feet.

It was a German Scientist by name Mr. Schomberg, who discovered the presence of monazite in the sands and got collected in a godown in Germany, where the coir imported from the Manavalakurichi area was stacked. The coir had carried some sands also, quite likely, as the coconut husks is being processed and converted into coir in the sands only. Probably, the manufacturers and exporters themselves might have

added this heavy sands into the coir deliberately, in order to increase the weight. Any way, the Germans traced back the source of the monazite sand and came to Manavalakurichi area. Monazite was a very valuable mineral at that time as it contains thorium, the raw material for the then flourishing industry namely, gas mantle manufacturing. They were astonished to find rich deposits of monazite all along the beach unexploited. They wasted no time, and started a factory in 1911 for concentrating monazite. When electricity was discovered, gas mantle industry declined so also the demand for monazite. However, by the time other valuable minerals like ilmenite, zircon, rutile, etc., had been discovered in the beach sands of Manavalakurichi and these were also economically exploited.

During World War-I, the British captured the sand industry from the Germans and were controlling it till Independence. There were few private industries run mostly by British which were nationalised after Independence and the monazite export was also banned.

The State Government took over the industry following its nationalisation. It was in the year 1965, Indian Rare Earths Limited took over this industry. It was a boon to the sand industry of this region. The sound and able management of Indian Rare Earths Ltd. started modernisation of the plant and also introduced latest technology.[5] The process continues even now. Dredge and wet concentration facilities have been introduced since August 1986. It envisages to establish some more units and identify more places near Manavalakurichi.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

1. **The Nagammal Textile Mill,** Nagercoil, is a large scale industry under the private sector. This is the first of its kind to come up in Kanniyakumari district, which was commissioned in the year 1955. The capacity of the mill is 12,600 spindles and the turnover in terms of production is about 5000 bales of yarn. About 450 persons are employed in this mill.

The Kanniyakumari District Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited, Aralvoimozhi : This is one among the seventeen cooperative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu. It is located at Aralvoimozhi which is at a distance of 14 km. from Nagercoil. Set up in 1963, it went into commercial production

on 9 December 1965. To start with, there were 12,000 spindles which gradually rose to 24,960 spindles in 1979. As on 31 July 1986, 909 persons were employed.

There were 951 members in 1980 whose paid up share capital was Rs.72.55 lakhs of which the total authorised share capital was Rs.100 lakhs. The raw material needed i.e. cotton is purchased from the Cotton Corporation of India, the Cotton Growers Federation of Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and from the Tamil Nadu Co- operative Marketing Federation.

The year-wise particulars of production for the past six years are as below :-

Year	*40s converted production*	*Value in lakhs*
1980	11,88,019	363.82
1981	16,50,099	467.66
1982	17,69,775	553.37
1983	14,72,307	484.04
1984	20,71,523	636.86
1985	19,66,892	649.46

In 1985, this spinning stood first among the Cooperative sector mills in Tamil Nadu in machinery utilisation and spindle point production.

Marketing : The Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society is the major consumer of the yarn produced in this mill. About 75 per cent of the production is distributed to Weavers Cooperative Societies through its depots. About 20 per cent of the production of the mill is in 'cone form' and is sold to power loom units in Bombay through a common yarn sales depot at Bombay on consignment basis and especially the 60s carded cone yarn variety has earned a reputation in the Bombay market and hence a great demand for it. The turnover from 1980 to 1985 is as below :-

Sl. No.	*Year*	*sales in lakhs* (Rs.)	*working result* (Rs. IN LAKHS)		
			Gross Profit	*Profit for the year*	*Net Profit*
1	1980	345.40	(+) 58.45	(+) 54.05	(+) 17.67
2	1981	476.34	(+) 18.75	(-) 13.15	(-) 13.15
3	1982	576.44	(+) 58.78	(+) 26.40	(+) 13.25
4	1983	471.12	(+) 21.38	(-) 7.44	(-) 7.44
5	1984	688.21	(+) 24.35	(-) 5.57	(-) 13.01
6	1985	646.67	(+) 51.26	(-) 20.48	(+) 7.47 (tentative)

The power requirement of the mill is 1250 KVA. A 1000 KVA transformer has been installed and an additional load of 250 KVA has been sanctioned. Installation of an additional 500 KVA transformer is under the active consideration of the management. As at present, there are four generators of 1142 KVA capacity to tide over, in case of power short supply or failure.

Soft Drinks Plants : *The Prabha Beverages Private Limited.* To quench the thirst and to cater to the growing needs of Kanniyakumari and the neighbouring areas of Kerala, the Parle Private Limited, Bombay, authorised Prabha Beverages Private Limited for setting up a soft drinks plant at Marthandam, which is about 30 km. from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Trivandrum National Highway.

The plant was set up in 1987 by the Prabha Beverages (P) Ltd. at a cost of Rs. 1.12 crores. It produces soft drinks such as Gold Spot, Limca, Thums up and Bisleri Club Soda and its turnover is 4 lakh bottles a day. Raw materials such as essences, carbon dioxide and citric acid are collected from Ahmedabad, Cochin and Bombay respectively besides sugar and other materials which are available locally. The plant provides employment for 69 persons, as in April 1988[6].

Small Scale Industries : There are also small scale industries such as safety matches, cashew processing, wooden article manufacture, tiles, sale splints and vensers, lime, cement works, leather goods, plastic articles which contribute direct to the consumer interest.

The following table will enable to have an idea about the growth of small industries:-

Year	*No. of SSI units functioning*	*Invest-ment* (Rs. IN LAKHS)	*produ-ction* (Rs. IN CRORES)	*employ-ment* (IN NOS.)	*percen-tage of growth*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
1975-76	258	115.30	1.83	3160	Base Year
1976-77	360	147.75	2.93	8200	12 %
1977-78	456	180.55	4.13	21273	27%
1978-79	522	241.06	6.98	24302	26%
1979-80	539	231.28	9.73	24472	2.40%
1980-81	664	436.95	13.43	29155	19%

(1)	(2)	(3) *	(4)*	(5)*	(6)
1981-82	755	472.00	14.23	32180	
1982-83	824	496.00	15.87	36600	
1983-84	900	526.00	17.10	38300	
1984-85	1149	611.00	18.95	41600	
1985-86	1480	683.62	20.98	48740	
1986-87	1683	817.69	24.14	51390	
1987-88	1903	907.02	27.03	57600	

* Approximate

Number of Small Scale Industrial Units

(Permanent) in the district as on 31 March 1988

Sl. No. (1)	*Details of Classification* (2)	*No.of SSI Units* (PERMANENT) (3)
1	Food and Food Products	255
2	Beverages and Tobacco Products	8
3	Cotton Textile Products	44
4	Textile Products	135
5	Wood and Wooden Products	237
6	Paper and Paper Products	148
7	Leather and allied Products	35
8	Rubber, Plastic, Coal and Petroleum Products	92
9	Chemical and Chemical Products	240
10	Non-Metallic Mineral Products	174
11	Basic Metal and Alloy	8
12	Metal Products and Parts	215
13	Electrical Machinery and Apparatus Servicing	50
14	Transport Equipment and Parts Servicing	170
15	Fibre Products	42
16	Other Manufacturing Industries	50
	Total	1903

Industrial Estates : The Industrial Estates provide technical knowhow and infrastructure to the small scale industries like provision of sheds and developed plots in suitable locations to the entrepreneurs either on hire purchase or rental basis, and the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) is the main agency. This has established two industrial estates, one at Marthandam and the other at Nagercoil, the details of which are as below : -

Industrial Estate, Marthandam :- It is located at Kappikadu, which is at a distance of 3 km. from Marthandam proper. It was established in 1959 in an extent of 7.50 acres. One unit has come up as in 1986.

Industrial Estate, Nagercoil : It is located at Konam which is at a distance of 2 km. from Nagercoil. It was set up in 1963 in an extent of 20.85 acres where 27 development plots are made available, 27 units have come up.

Also there are eight regular sheds to cater to the needs under the "Tiny Sector Programme", which are fully occupied. The Industries here are mainly engaged in the manufacture of steel furniture, pipes, drums, electrical goods, rubber products, I.V. fluid, etc.

SCHEMES OF SIDCO

1. Key Raw Materials Distribution Scheme : Under this scheme, raw materials such as iron and steel, coke, paraffin wax, fatty acids, potassium chlorate, etc. are being distributed to small scale industrial units. The details of the raw materials supplied in Kanniyakumari district are as under:

Sl. No.	*Name of raw materials*	*No. of regd. units*	*No. of units availed in SIDCO's service*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
1	Iron and steel (Ms Plates, HR Sheets, CR Sheets, angles, channels, GP and GC sheets, etc.)	20	10
2	Match wax	4	2
3	Paraffin wax/std/type-II	32	32
4	Potassium chlorate	29	29

2. Development Services : Small scale industries, which are located in industrially backward areas, are eligible for Central investment capital subsidy, the particulars of which are as follows :-

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of taluk* (2)	*category* (3)	*percentage of subisdy eligible* (4)	*CIS / SCS* (5)
1	Kalkulam			
2	Agasthiswaram and	'C'	10 per cent	CIS
3	Vilavancode			
4	Thovalai	'B'	10 per cent or 15 per cent	CIS or SCS

The details of subsidy sanctioned and disbursed under 10 per cent CIS are as below :-

Year	*sanctioned*		*disbursed*	
	No.	*Amount* (Rs. in lakhs)	*No.*	*Amount* Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1983-84	2	0.38	--	--
1984-85	4	0.86	2	0.38
1985-86	11	1.93	9	2.03
1986-87	12	3.04	8	2:22
As in October 1987	2	0.37	--	--
Total	31	6.58	19	4.63

3. Marketing Assistance Scheme : Under this scheme, SIDCO provides marketing assistance to the small scale industries, by participating in the tender/enquiries, floated by the various Government Departments/Corporations/Local Bodies, etc. The particulars of which are as follows:-

No. of Units registered under Marketing Assistance Scheme in Kanniyakumari district	32
No. of units assisted	8

Cooperative Industrial Estate : The Tamil Nadu Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs towards the commissioning of a Cooperative Industrial Estate at Vattakottai near Kanniyakumari.

District Industries Centre[7] : The District Industries Centre which is the district unit of the Department of Industries identifies their entrepreneurs and renders assistance for setting up small industries.

District Industries Centre at Konam near Nagercoil was created on 1 August 1978, which helps small entrepreneurs in obtaining licences, loans from the nationalised banks, finanical institutions like SIDCO and TIIC and also in procuring raw materials. The particulars of facilities made available to the various industries from 1 August 1978 to 29 December 1982 are as follows:-

	Description	*No.of applications*	*Amount sanctioned* Rupees	*As on Cases*	*31.12.86 Employment*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1	Handloom	33	81,050	–	–
2	Cottage and Village Industries	67	2,74,900	244	500
3	Handicrafts	136	1,84,500	3134	4448
4	Self Employment	6	10,800	877	103.27
5	SSI Units	174	1,22,18,025	1690	29304
6	Coir Units	102	9,86,500	310	3000
	Total		1,37,55,775		

The District Industries Centre is also in the picture which implements the Centrally sponsored self employment programme for the Educated Unemployed Youths.

Cashewnut Industry : Cashewnut processing is predominantly an export-oriented seasonal industry. The industry came into prominence only during the fifties and the number of cashewnut factories has since then been on the increase. The National Nut Company at Palugal, the Vijayalakshmi Cashewnut Industries and the Raju Vilas Roasting Plant both located at Palavilai are the main units in the district, while the rest are only small units. Put together, there are 196 cashew units.

Women are mainly employed in shelling the roasted nuts and peeling the machine dried kernels.

Handicrafts[8] : Indian handicrafts known for its proud tradition are appreciated for their aesthetic and as well as their utilitarian values as a result they prove to be the most valued export commodities in our country and as well as abroad. The main crafts in the district are wood carving, stone carving, metal works, lace and embroidery, temple jewellery, kora grass mat, laminated wood, musical instruments and fibre craft.

Fibre craft : It is one of the popular handicrafts of the district. Availability of raw material (i.e.) banana sheath in plenty and deft hands to turn out lovely articles go hand in hand to create a ready market everywhere in the State especially at the tourist centre of Kanniyakumari. Because of its considerable potential to generate employment among women, the Centre and the State Governments have come up with schemes to popularise this craft, which are wide, ranging such as bags, tea coasters, table mats, door mats, fancy dolls, flower pots and flower pot hangers. Even the fibre dusts do not go a waste but they are dyed and used for painting.

Next to Kerala, Kanniyakumari district accounts for the largest manufacture of fibre articles in the country. Puviyur, Nagercoil, Tiruvarambu, Chungankadai, Manalikarai, Aramboly, Kollel, Pacodu, Idaikodu, Arumanai and Kattathurai are some of the important centres.

The Fine Fibre Workers Cooperative Cottage Industrial Society which has membership of 300 women has been set up with the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board. The members are imparted intensive training for three months in fibre craft.

Wood Carving : This is very popular in the district which is evident from the fact that even today one can see the workmanship in the temple doors and the furniture in the Padmanabhapuram palace and the like. However, lack of encouragement and the increase in the cost of manufacture have led to the wane of this traditional craft and hence the industry is ebbing now.

The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited in order to encourage and promote the industries, have set up a Poompuhar Temple Car Training Centre at Nagercoil to impart training in wood crafts such as in wood carvings, building temple cars and carved wooden doors. To market the finished products, a showroom with Sales centre in Kanniykumari has been set up by the Poompuhar. This product commands good demand at Kanniyakumari.

Stone Carving : This is a traditional craft which flourished under the Pandyian kings known for their lavishness in constructing temples with rich intricately designed carvings on the stones used as pillars, ceilings, etc. In the temple at Suchindrum which excels in such exquisite carvings is a standing monument of beauty at which, one marvels, when he visits this temple. This traditional art has found its way into the 20th century also; for example the Vivekananda Rock Memorial was constructed meticulously with blue and red granite. The red granite used for the shikharams of the mandapam is very unique and imposing which has won the appreciation of one and all the world over. These two constructions thus reveal the traditional standards and the perfection in architecture or to say it is a harmonious blend of traditional art and architecture and thus the splendour which evokes interest to any visitor to these places. These arts still have roots in Mylaudy, Thirupathisaram and Aralvoimozhi.

Bell Metal Industry : It is popular especially in the manufacture of brass vessels, lamps (kuthuvilakku) and temple bells. The brass vessels are largely ornamental with the images of Gods, flowers and sacred animals etched or carved on them. Kottar in Nagercoil has also long been associated with the manufacture of domestic vessels made of vellode or bell metal.

The decline in market for this finished products has caused a set back to this industry. So, Poompuhar takes care of marketing these articles and as a result the industry now heaves a sigh of relief.

Lace and embroidery work : This craft was popularised to the present stage by the missionaries from the west for whom the place was one of their intensive campaign centres. The worksmenship of the needle craft practised in the district is superb. The craft is now so important specially for its prospects in employing the largest number of rural womenfolk. The artisans have their own designs, colours and patterns.

Lace and embroidery manufacturing centres are found concentrated in Nagercoil, Marthandam, Neyyoor, Mulagamood, Kanjiracode, Irenipuram and Killiyoor. The C.S.I. Lace and Embroidery unit, Nagercoil is the pioneer institution, which manufactures and exports lace and embroidery products done by village women.

Temple Jewellery : This is similar to costume jewellery excepting that real gold leaf beaten to extreme thinness is used for covering the surface of the ornament. So, the ornaments made in this style are costlier. The ornaments made in the temple jewellery style are made to specifications to suit the temple deities.

Costume jewellery : These are also similar to the temple jewellery except that the metal used is neither gold nor silver and hence cheap. These are used by the stage artistes.

The craft is practised by a section of goldsmith belonging to the Viswakarma community at Nagercoil and Vadaseri.

Kora Grass Mat : This is one of the most popular crafts of this district. This is a cottage industry which employs a large number of womenfolk and children. The korai grass is not available locally but procured from Karur in Tiruchirappalli district and Vellore in North Arcot district. However, the korai grass available in Vellore is not equal in quality as that of in Karur. The popular korai grass varieties used here are koolamattam and marmattam. Mat weaving centres are at Thuckalay, Madhavalayam, Soorangudi, Thittumilai, Ethampoly, Irnepuram, Killiyoor, Athicode, Thiruvancode, Kanniyakumari and Kottar.

Reed and Bamboo Article : The area situated right below the western ghats has a reserve of lush forest where reed and bamboo are found grown in abundance side by side with rubber, cardamom and other growings on the hill. Like mat weaving, this is purely a home craft where all the members of the household are involved. This craft is practised by tribal people mostly inhabiting in places below the mountain slopes. Though a wide range of articles are being made in this district, the most popular variety is the conical baskets which is commercially used for packing fruits, flowers, betel leaves, etc. for transportation to other places. Modern units located at Kanniyakumari are now manufacturing dinner mats and wall hangings, etc. Reeds are used for weaving mats. Impressive paintings are produced in the mats.

Palm Leaf and Screwpine articles : This is also one of the important crafts in this district. Mostly, adivasis and backward communities living along the slopes of western ghats have taken up to this avocation such as baskets and mat weaving out of palm leaf and screwpine which are used in packing betel leaves, fruits, flowers, etc. for transportation. These baskets are in big demand locally. Fancy bags are also manufactured. These industries are amply found in Edaicode, Mecode, Thiruvithancode, Palugal, Azhagiamandapam Mettukadai and Thuckalay.

Sea Shell Craft : Varieties of beautiful and exquisite fancy articles turned out by the deft hands of people, mainly women. The array of shell articles displayed especially at Kanniyakumari are a beauty and one has to see them to believe. There is a ready local market for the finished products within the district and they also find a market in Bombay, Bangalore, etc.

Laminated Wood Works : With a background of years of experience in turning out artistic items in pure wood the Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre at Nagercoil has successfully introduced making articles in laminated wood. The tools and techniques are provided to the manufacturing units here by the Central Handicrafts Development Centre, Bangalore through this centre. The most popular items produced are laminated wooden bangles, beads, key chains candle stands, coasters, paper cutters, door curtain hangers, and other gift articles.

Wood Turned Products : Turned artistic products out of Teakwood, rosewood and poovarasu are the speciality of this district. They have wider application in all costly wooden furniture especially in ornamental cots, tables, chairs and almirah. This now finds good demand in Bombay. The important places of manufacture are Nagercoil, Kulasekaram, Marthandam and Kottar.

Articles from Wax : In and around Nagercoil, replicas of vegetables, fruits, etc. are made from bee wax. However, this craft has not developed as it should be.

Musical Instruments : This area is as famous for musical instruments as it is for temples, temple jewellery, temple figures in wood and a wide range of musical instruments, like nadeswaram, thavil, harmonium, mridangam, flute, etc. But the artistes, inaptitude

and the shift to modern instruments compelled the discontinuance of this traditional craft save only a few families here and there, at Mettukadai and Marthandam, who still cling on to this avocation by force of circumstances.

Cut Glass work : This is not the glass work as one envisages but it is only the cut pieces of waste glass used in making articles such as niches, replicas of temples gopurams, churches, etc. This craft which is of recent origin is mainly found in Nagercoil.

Marketing : The handicrafts manufactured in the district find a good market both in India and abroad as well through the Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre in Nagercoil set up by the Government of India, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development in Madras and Kerala Handicrafts market meets organised by the Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre in Madras and Trivandrum have gone a long way in culminating the role of middlemen in the trade. The Match Service Society at Thuckalai is also marketing the safety matches produced by the primary match units.

Khadi and village Industries : In Kanniyakumari district, the Khadi scheme was first implemented in September 1957 by establishing one Khadi Production Centre and one Khadi Kraft Sales depot at Nagercoil for marketing the khadi and village industries products of the district.

With a view to promote and develop the khadi and village industries products in the State, the Tamilnadu Khadi and Village Industries Board was set up in April 1960. The Board generates employment opportunities in rural areas by utilising the raw materials available in the areas concerned which in turn help alleviate poverty.

Khadi : The Board distributes Ambar Charkas to the people engaged in spinning, at Rural Textile Centres which help the individuals engaged in this occupation. During 1987 there were 11 khadi production centres, four khadi krafts and 52 Rural Textile Centres in villages.

These eleven production centres are located at Nagercoil, Manavalakurichi, Agasthiswaram, Monday Market, Villukuri, Marthandam,

Thengampudur, Pottal, Chemparathivilai, Palapallam and Mylaudy. They supply cotton to the spinners and purchase the yarn produced by them. The Board has been successful in this endeavour in the district.The Rural Textile Centres provide regular employment to ruralfolk which are managed by trained Instructors, appointed by the Khadi and Village Industries Board. The requirements of the centres such as materials and accessories are met by the Board.

Village Industries : Village Industries are developed through the units of the Khadi and Village Industries Board as well as through the Industrial Cooperative Societies registered by the Board. In Kanniyakumari district, the Board had the following units during 1987.

	Name of the Industry		*location*
1	Non-edibie oil and soap	1	Agasthiswaram
		2	Kollai
2	Bee-keeping sub-station	3	Manalikkarai
		4	Vencode
		5	Melpuram
		6	Thamanoor
		7	Senamvilai
		8	Vivillai
		9	Kadayal
3	Bee nursery	10	Keelkulam

Besides these, there were 95 industrial units under the cooperative sector in the district as detailed below:-

	Name of the Industry	***No. of Societies***
1	Palmgur	78
2	Oil	3
3	Cane and bamboo	2
4	Bee-keeping	2
5	Lime	2
6	Carpentry and blacksmithy	1
8	Fibre	5
9	Handmade paper	1
		95

Loans and advances given by the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board in the Kanniyakumari district for the period between 1980-81 1986-87

Sl. No	Name of the industry	number	loan	grant	total
1.	Lime Industry	130	5,17,000	—	5,17,000
2.	Hand pounding, beiten, rice, bakery industry	87	2,29,000	21,500	—
3.	Soap Industry	22	81.500	—	81,500
4	Leather Industry	80	1,28,150	1,56,500	2,84,650
5.	Oil Industry	57	7,74,500	1,20,375	7,94,875
6.	Carpentry and blacksmithy industry	322	2,84,900	2,28,400	5,13,300
7.	Bee keeping Industry	187	2,35,380	7,02 734	4,25,455
8.	Brick and Pottery Industry	287	7,02,734	5,20,587	10,23,321
9.	FIBRE INDUSTRY	650	31,800	31,800	63,600

Assistant Director, K & V.I, Nagercoil, Report dt. 17 March 1988.

There is a District Cooperative Palmgur Federation Society which regulates the production and sale of palm products. For marketing the Khadi and Village products, the Board is running Khadi Kraft and Sales depots at Thuckalay, Nagercoil, Marthandam, and Kanniyakumari. As in 1988 the Khadi and Village Industries programme provided employment to 50,700 persons[9].

Production and Sales of Khadi and village Industries Products in the district from 1980-81 to 1986-87[10]

Year (1)	*Khadi Production (in metres) (2)*	*Khadi Sales (3)*	*Village Industries Product sales. (4)*
		Rs.	Rs.
1980-81	460239	33,97.718	12,59,146
1981-82	502237	36,56,179	15,24,750
1982-83	519557	40,49,598	13,93,477
1983-84	452030	47,16,603	10,71,264
1984-85	288754	53,80,239	9,29,902
1985-86	310055	60,26,151	9,53,628
1986-87	272987	44,09,335	17,12,200

Handloom Industry in the district is a traditional and labour intensive industry which is the largest in the unorganised sector. Here, in the district every weaver's house is a mini handloom industry. So, besides agriculture, handloom plays a pivotal role in the district's economy.

This industry is concentracted in places such as Kottar, Vadaseri, Elangadai, Eraniel, Palliyadi and Valvachagoshtam. Kottar which is a suburb of Nagercoil town, and Eraniel in Kalkulam taluk from very early times have been famous for their handloom textiles, particularly laced cloth and turkey towels. In olden days this industry was not only meeting the entire local requirements, but was also meeting the requirements of the other parts of India and even abroad. But it is a well known fact that the fortunes of the industry have been unstable here also as elsewhere, so it suffered in the later years for a variety of reasons and faced serious crisis on several occasions, resulting in the weavers being thrown out of

employment and naturally producers of handloom cloth had to sustain heavy financial losses.

The Government, therefore, have come to the aid of the weavers by setting up the Tamil Nadu State Handloom weavers Co-operative Society at Nagercoil. The society supplied yarn to weavers' societies and procured the finished goods and marketed them. A sales emporium has also been opened at Nagercoil to popularise handloom fabrics.

There are about 14,161 handloom units in 1988-89 in the district of which 11,411 looms are under the co-operative sector and the rest under the private sector. There are 77 weavers cooperative societies during the year 1988-89 in the district[11].

Sales units are at Nagercoil, Karungal, Vadasery, Monday Market and Thuckalay.

Number of Handloom Units from 1980-81 to 1988-89 in the district.

	Year	*No. of handloom units*
1	1980-81	11713
2	1981-82	12416
3	1982-83	12610
4	1983-84	13162
5	1984-85	13217
6	1985-86	10650
7	1986-87	11212
8	1987-88	11607
9	1988-89 (up to 30 November 1988)	11411

Production and sale of handloom cloths from 1980-81 to 1988-89

	Production		Sales	
Year	*Metre* (IN LAKHS)	*Value* (Rs. IN LAKHS)	*Metre* (IN LAKHS)	*Value* (Rs. IN LAKHS)
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1980-81	69.89	227.35	62.22	256.83
1981-82	71.62	289.34	75.90	316.79
1982-83	83.00	380.01	76.62	366.56
1983-84	100.30	511.77	104.95	563.65
1984-85	97.03	511.38	111.56	554.60
1985-86	94.39	510.40	98.45	556.56
1986-87	97.12	619.22	103.12	698.46
1987-88	101.06	718.56	102.09	732.11
1988-89	74.55 (up to 30 November 1988)	490.64	80.95	593.00

Government schemes : The Tamil Nadu Government introduced schemes for the welfare of the weavers, such as Rebate Subsidy, Special Component plan, Cluster Development Scheme, Integrated Rural Development Programme and Weavers Housing Scheme. These schemes also provide for loans to various weavers co-operative societies.

The Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society popularly known as "Co-optex" was established in 1934 in the State with the object of organising and promoting handlooms in the Co-operative Sector on a commerical basis by supplying necessary raw materials and marketing their products.

The Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles which was set up in 1956 after bifurcation from the Co-operative department is responsible for planning and implementation of programmes for promotion of handloom industry.

The Directorate also functions as the State Textile Authority and as such he has a responsibility to initiate measures wherever neccessary for successful functioning of textile and powerloom industries apart from the handloom sector in the State.

The Tamil Nadu Handloom Finance and Trading Corporation (now renamed as Tamil Nadu Handloom Development Corporation) was established in 1964 with the object of providing financial assistance to persons engaged in handlooms, powerlooms and ancillary industry outside the Co-operative sector.

Coir-Industry : There is a great scope for the development of this industry in the district. Coir industry is carried on all along the coastal areas from Kanniyakumari to Kollancode. About 95 per cent of the coir produced in the district are sent to places outside the district. There were 42 Co-operative Coir Societies in the district as on 1981. Training in the production of two ply yarn is imparted to people in various places. In Kanniyakumari 500 people were trained under the Integrated Rural Development Programme. To further the scheme of training, the Government sanctioned the establishment of a Coir School at Ethamozhi which started functioning in 1962. The school offeres training to workers in the manufacture of coir mats, mattings, brush mats, etc. using modern methods.

Spinning of coir yarn is mostly carried out with the aid of the spinning wheels. Ashtamudy, Angengo, Aratoray Vaikam and Common beach yarn are some of the varieties of coir manufactured in the district.

In 1986 the area under coconut plantation in the district was about 16,800 hectares. The average yield of coconuts per annum was estimated at 20.6 crores. The coir fibre are utilised by the 60 registered coir based industries employing about 900 persons. The speciality of Kanniyakumari district is that the coir available here is of the white variety.

There is also a large scale industry at Ammandivilai employing 150 persons which is engaged in the manufacture of coir products, through its powerlooms.

Rubber sheeting unit at Keeriparai Rubber Factory

The total production capacity of the existing small scale coir units is 4106 tonnes per annum and that of the only large scale industry in Ammandivilai is 3750 tonnes per annum.[12]

Tea cultivation : The total area under tea cultivation in 1986 was 2700 acres in Kanniyakumari district.

Rubber Industry: Rubber plantation in India, found its way at the beginning of this century but the rubber Industry in India actually took its root only after 1930.

Tamil Nadu stands second in the production of natural rubber in the country and the credit goes to the Kanniyakumari district since the entire plantation in the State is in this district. The district is well endowed by soil and climate conditions best suited for rubber cultivation.

Up to the 50s rubber plantations were under private enterprise. In June, 1960, the Government initiated a scheme in the Keeriparai Reserve Forest area and brought about 2,000 acres under rubber plantation, whereas at that time about 16,000 acres of rubber plantation were under private enterprise. In 1980 in Kanniyakumari district alone 12,688 hectares were under rubber plantation as against 12,716 hectares in the whole of Tamil Nadu. In 1980-81, 4,39,566 rubber trees were tapped employing 3000 persons, annual yield per tree was 5.35 kg. In 1986, the area under rubber plantation further rose to 13,168 hectares in all i.e., Government as well as private, employing about 50,000 persons.

Rubber plantations are widespread along the western ghats in Vilavancode, Kalkulam and Thovalai taluks and to be specific in Keeriparai, Paralaiyar, Manalodai, Chithar, Mylar and Kallar areas. Rubber available here is of a superior quality equivalent to Malasian product.

During 1988 there are 42 rubber based industries in the district and their production was about 1,500 tonnes of finished goods per year such as tread rubber, rubber surgical gloves, rubber bands and rubber elastic thread and finger tips besides rubber in the form of latex and rubber sheets which find market in other districts and States.

The TANSI has proposed to start a rubber based industry in the district.[13]

The Government of Tamil Nadu have set up a separate Corporation for the development of rubber industry with headquarters at Nagercoil by name 'Arasu Rubber Corporation Ltd'. The activities of Corporation in the district are as follows.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ARASU RUBBER CORPORATION LIMITED, NAGERCOIL.[14]

Rubber is an important plant product having varied industrial, technological and domestic uses and is undoubtedly one of the most profitable plantation cash crops in the country today. Rubber plants start yield in the 14th year but continues up to 30th year. The cost of raising one hectare of rubber plantation is about Rs.17,000. In Tamil Nadu, Kanniyakumari district alone is suited for the growth of natural rubber. An extent of 4785.7 ha. has been planted with rubber in the Kanniyakumari district from 1960 onwards under various schemes up to 1980. The Government rubber plantations which were under the control of the Tamil Nadu Forest department till 30 September 1984 have been converted into a Corporation and registered under the Companies Act 1956 on 20 August 1984 (No. 11066/84) and styled as Arasu Rubber Corportation Limited as per G.O. Ms. No.221, Forests & Fisheries dated 25 February 1983 and 197, Forests and Fisheries Department 25 February 1984. The Corporation has started functioning with effect from 1 October 1984.

There are three factories to process the field latex into different grades of natural rubber. These factories are located at Keeriparai, Perunchani and Mylar.

In G.O. Ms.No. 309, Forest & Fisheries dated 19.3.1985, a lease rent of Rs.4000/- per ha. per annum has been fixed as lease fee payable to the Forest department for mature rubber plantations and Rs.400/- per ha. per annum for immature areas yet to come for tapping.

PROTECTION IN A MODERN WAY : Damage to young rubber plants are caused by wild elephants and other wildlife. Hence electric fence has been provided over a distance of 30 km. in Maruthamparai, Chithar, Kallar and Kuthiar divisions at a cost of Rs.2.25 lakhs put an end to the wildlife damage as is done in the palm plantations of Malaysia, since other measures adopted previously to prevent wildlife damage provide futile. The electric fence has helped in preventing elephant damage to a

great extent. It is proposed to extend the electric fence over a distance of 15 km. in Mylar division so as to keep off the elephants totally.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT : A five Year Plan involving an outlay of Rs.1322 lakhs for improvement of the rubber plantations of the Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, including replanting failed patches in the western wing has since been approved by the Corporation.

PRODUCTION : Details regarding the number of tasks under tapping from the year of inception of the corporation to the current year are given below :

Year	*Number of tasks*
1984-85	2058
1985-86	2207
1986-87	2259
1987-88	2356
1988-89	2412

The production of rubber (both latex and scrap) during 1984-85 (1 October 1984 to 31 March 1985) was 1385 tonnes. A quantity of 2412 tonnes of rubber (both latex and scrap) was collected during 1985-86 in 2207 tapping tasks as against the target of 2300 tonnes-112 tonnes over and and above the target fixed. A target of 2400 tonnes of raw rubber has been fixed for 1986-87 and 2359 tonnes of rubber were collected. During 1987-88, 2678 tonnes of rubber were collected as against the target of 2550 tonnes.

Sale : During 1984-85, rubber was sold (6 months period) to the tune of Rs.292-37 lakhs and Rs.416.63 lakhs during 1985-86. During 1986-87 rubber was sold to the tune of Rs.401.38 lakhs and during 1987-88 rubber was sold to the tune of Rs.602.46.

Right from the beginning of the Corportation, rubber was sold in open auction/tender till the end of October 1986.

This system apart from resulting in accumulation of stocks does not take into account the fluctuation in prices and the merchants take their own time to remove the purchased rubber to their advantage. The participants in the auction sales are not the rubber consumers but traders supplying rubber to the industries hoping to gain a margin of profits. In order to avoid middiemen and also to obtain better prices without accumulation of stocks, rubber is now being sold by negotiation to

the rubber consuming industries taking into account the Kottayam Rubber Market as basis, besides open auction/tender. Steps have also been taken for direct sales with bulk consuming industries on agreement basis.

Financial Position : According to the audited accounts of the corporation for the year 1984-85, the net profit was Rs.10.77 lakhs and Rs.2.55 lakhs for the year 1985-86. The net profit for the year 1986-87 is Rs.3.16 lakhs as per the unaudited accounts. It is estimated that the net profit of this corporation during the year (1987-88) will be around Rs.4.03 lakhs.

Wages And Labour Welfare Activities : The total strength of labour force of this corporation is 2562 consisting of tappers, field workers, protective workers, factory workers and casual workers.

Daily wages are paid to the labourers at rates varying from Rs.23.43 to Rs.24.56 accordinng to their grades. Tappers are paid over kilo wages for collection of latex and scrap at the rate of 65 paise per kg. and 30 p. per kg. respectively more than the standard output as given below:-

Standard output Class	*Latex (kg.)*	*Scrap (kg.)*
I.	1,200	0.300
II.	2,000	0.500
III.	3,600	0.900
IV.	5,200	1.300

Pending finalisation of audit of the accounts by the statutory auditors, a sum of Rs.15.07 lakhs was disbursed to the labourers and staff towards bonus for the year 1984-85 and about Rs. 16 lakhs for the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 each at the statutory minimum of 8.33 per cent. After finalisation of audit of the accounts by the statutory auditors, bonus if any due will be paid to the workers according to the Payment of Bonus' Act. Daily allowance is revised as per the consumer price index of Nagercoil.

One thousand and one hundred families of workers have been provided with houses in the plantation areas and 385 labour houses are under construction.

In Chithar and Kuthiar divisions, rubber has been planted for providing employment to Sri Lanka Repatriates. All the repatriate labourers are provided with living accommodation and houses within the plantations. So far, 285 repatriate families have been absorbed under this scheme.

All eligible workers are paid national and festival holidays wages, besides annual supply of bedsheets and umbrellas.

To provide free educational facilities to the children of workers of the Corportation, primary schools are functioning in almost all divisions of the corporation and in this academic year, the primary schools have been upgraded as midddle schools in Keeriparai, Chithar and Kuthiar divisions of the Corporation.

All the children studying in this Corporation's schools are benefited under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meals scheme. Separate buildings have been constructed by the Corporation for implementing this programme.

A ten bedded Garden Hospital at Keeriparai and six bedded Garden Hospital at Chithar each under the charge of qualified Medical Officer and other auxiliary staff are functioning. In addition, there are seven dispensaries to which the Medical Officers pay weekly visit. The hospitals and the dispensaries provide medical care for the staff workers and their families.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme is implemented in this Corportation and deduction is made on the wages of the workers and remitted with Regional Provident Fund Commissioner with equal share of the management.

Two thousand five hundred and sixty two workers hailing from the nearby villages are employed under various categories viz. tappers, factory workers and field workers in this Corporation. Preference is given to Kanis (hill tribes) in the recruitment of workers as they form the most backward segment of the population in the Kanniyakumari district.

Communications : So far as communication facilities are concerned, black topping has been done by the Corporation to a distance of 16.89 km. at a cost of Rs. 8.39 lakhs. This has enabled plying of transport buses to all the divisions of the Corporation for the benefit of the staff, labourers and their families.

Details regarding number of employees, capital investments, marketing, production, sale value, annual revenue etc., are tabled below:-

1.	Number of rubber industries Their locations, years of commencement of the industries particulars of the set up.		Two 1. Rubber factory, Keeriparai, 2. Rubber factory, Perunchani, (only processing of latex and convert them sheets, crepe etc.)
2.	Number of persons employed in each industry–		1. Rubber factory Keeripurai – 103 2 Rubber factory Perunchani – 42
			(Rupees)
3.	Capital investments (as on 31 March 1985)	fixed assets	3,68,24,247/-
		current	1,54,27,047/-
		gross capital investment	5,22,54,294/-
		net	4,70,63,653/-
4.	Source of supply of raw materials		obtaining from their own estates (rubber plantations)
5.	Products manufactured		(1) R.M.A. Grades (2) E.B.C. Grades (3) P.L.C. Grades (4) Concentrated Latex (5) Skim Crepe
6.	Marketing		Through public auction, tender, long term agreements and negotiation.

7. Significant features if any, adopted in the manufacturing process. — mechanical treatment.

8. The area under rubber plantation — 4785.7 hectares.

9. Production of various grades of rubbers per annum[15] :–

Item	1985-86 (in tonnes)	1986-87 (in tonnes)
RMA grades	425	935
EBC grades	262	260
PLC grades	NIL	63
Concentrated latex	1395	736
Skim crepe	NIL	27
Others	560	534
Total	26422	2575

10. Sale value of various grades of rubber:-

	1985-86 (Rupees in lakhs)	1986-87 (Rupees in lakhs)
RMA grades	62	166
EBC grades	32	45
PLC grades	–	11
Concentrated latex	286	137
Skim crepe	–	–
Others	36	35
Total	416	394

11. Total numbers of workers and staff –

	1985-86	1986-87
Workers	2562	2562
Staff	472	473

12. Annual Revenue – Annual Expenditure

1985-86 Rs.424.29 lakhs Rs. 402.40 lakhs

For the benefit of rubber growers in Kanniyakumari district, the Rubber Board has established a Regional Office headed by a Deputy Development officer at Nagercoil. This office is executing the following schemes of the Rubber Board :–

	Name of Scheme *(1)*	*Subsidy amount admissible* *(2)* (in Rs.)	*Minimum area required* *(3)*
1	Rubber Replanting subsidy	5000 per ha. + 2700 for polybag plants.	0.10 ha.
2	Rubber Plantation Development scheme New Planting	5000 per ha. + 2700 for polybag plants.	0.20 ha.
3	Smoke house subsidy Scheme	(85 kg.) capacity 5000 per smoke house.	
4	Roller Subsidy Schemes (for Small growers)	3500 per roller	
5	Distribution of cover crop seeds at subsidised rate.		
6	Distribution of rainguarding materials at 50 per cent subsidy rates.		
7	Distribution of estate imports at concessional rate.		
8	Advisory services - (free)		
9	Irrigation subsidy scheme :	3500 per ha. for small growers and 1500/- per ha. for large growers.	

There are few other beneficial schemes also. The required applications for these schemes are received and processed at Regional Office, Nagercoil. Every year nearly a sum of Rs.20 lakhs to 25 lakhs is spent for Kanniyakumari district, under the above schemes.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural development (NABARD) Bombay has schemes for providing long term loan to the rubber planters through scheduled banks with the technical collaboration of the Board. The loan is provided to meet the cost of replanting, maintenance of immature rubber, construction of smoke house, purchase of processing machine, construction of labour quarters etc.

For diagnoses of fertiliser requirements of rubber, by soil and leaf analysis, there is a Regional Laboratory also, which visits all important rubber growing centres, and collects soil and leaf samples and gives suitable manurial recommendations to rubber growers after analysis.[16]

Starch Industry : The Arokia Match and Starch factory at Puliyoorkurichi in Kalkulam taluk is one of the important units which is engaged in the production of starch from tapioca. The starch manufactured here finds a market locally and also throughout India. The factory provides employment for about 100 persons. The annual output of the unit is about 1200 tonnes. Arrow roots for the manufacture of arrow root powder are also available here.

Chank Industry[17]: Chank is available along the sea coast from Kadipattanam to Nerodai. Prior to the merger of the areas, which are under the present Kanniyakumari district with Tamil Nadu, the chank fishing right was enjoyed by the Maharajah of Travancore. However, with the transfer of this area to Tamil Nadu, the rights went to the Government and chank fishing was operated in the district departmentally till 14th April 1960. From 15th April 1960, the fishing was leased out to private parties. Subsequently, the Government revised the policy and declared the entire coastal area of Tamil Nadu except Tuticorin chank fishery as a free operational area for licensed chank divers from May 1971 onwards. Again, the Government, revised the policy and brought the chank fishery of the entire State as a Government monopoly, from September 1977 onwards. Now-a-days, only netted chanks are collected in the district.

Chanks are mainly used for the manufacture of fancy articles such as bangles, rings, etc. The "Valampuri Sangu" has a religious significance

and those who could afford to possess this rare chank treasure it and hence fetches a very good price. West Bengal is a major buyer of chanks. Small scale industries and handicraft units which use sea shell have also come up in the district. Sea-shells are used for the production of calcium carbide and hydrated lime.

Salt Industry : Salt manufacture is an old time industry mainly concentrated in Kanniyakumari and Colachel areas. These salt factories are known as 'Aloms'. There are ten salt factories in the district out of which three are located in Variyur, Palkulam and Thattarippu Odai on the east coast and the remaining factories in Rajakkamangalam and Colachel areas along the west coast.

Oil Industry : Extraction of oil from copra is an important cottage industry in the district, the main centres being Kottar, Vadasery, Eraniel, Putthukadai and Mylaudy. The other oils produced are from laurel, maruvettyam, illupa, gingelly, odai, pine, anjili, rubber seed, karinjotta, margosa and lemon grass which also find a good market.

Fish Net Industry[18] : Fish net making by hand is an enterprising industry in the coastal areas of the District. There is a fish net industry at Varavilai near Muttom run by the Kottar Social Service League. Quite a few religious organisations also run these centres in different parts of the district, which benefit the fishermen families. A mechanised Fish net (nylon) making unit at Manavalakurichi also caters to the needs of the fishermen.

Honey Processing : The YMCA Rural Reconstruction Centre at Marthandam is engaged in bee-keeping. The honey gathered here finds a market in the other places of the State. It is a seasonal industry which flourishes during April and May when rubber trees are in blossom. The annual production is estimated as 375 mts. of honey from 50,000 beehives.

Bricks and Tiles Industry : It is also an important and popular industry. One can see these units on either side of the road at Thovalai, Kandan Vilai, Mulagumudu, Pudukadai, and Nulli Villai areas. It is also found here and there in other parts of the district. The bricks and tiles manufactured here are of a high quality. Pacode near Marthandam is noted for brick industry.

Wheat Processing : A roller flour mill in the private sector with capacity to process 25 tonnes/day has been established by local

Salt Pan

Palkulam Salt Factory

entrepreneurs at Chungankadai near Nagercoil. A biscuit factory has also been commissioned in small scale sector in Nagercoil.

Small Scale Industries : Small scale industrial units in the district are as follows:-[19]

Name of the unit	*Location*
1. Wooden furniture, fixtures, bullock carts, wheels, etc. making	Nagercoil, Marthandam, Nullivilai and Thithivilai
2. Steel Almirah and Iron and Steel Products	Nagercoil, Colachel, Marthandam, Karungal, Thickanamcode, Monday Market and Eathamozhy.
3. Printing and Stationery	Nagercoil, Marthandam, Neyoor, Thuckalay and Karungal.
4. Candle Units	Nagercoil, Mullanganavilai, and Methukummal.
5. Cashewnut roasting units	Melpuram, Palavilai, Alanchi, Aranmanai, Edaicode, Kunnathoor, Maruthencode and Palugal.
6. Confectionery	Nagercoil, Marthandam, Thiru-vithamcode.
7. Chemicals Compound Asafoetida	Nagerocil.

Small scale units engaged in the manufacture of various other products are found scattered all over the district.

The various types of cottage industries in the district and products manufactured are detailed below :-

Cottage Industries [20]

Types of Cottage Industries	*Products manufactured*	*Percentage of total population of the dist. engaged in different cottage industries* (percentage)
1. Korai and Screwpine mat weaving	Korai mats and Screwpine	0.42
2. Palm leaf	Palm leaf products	0.35
3. Rattan and bamboo articles	Baskets and household utensils, furniture	0.09
4. Nylon Fancy Bags	Bags and baskets	0.02
5. Hand Printing	Printing on cloth	0.0004
6. Screwpine articles	Mats	0.62
7. Fish Net Knitting	Net making	1.18
8. Cashew kernel processing	Processing of Kernals	0.72
9. Carpentry works	Agriculture implements	0.45
10. Blacksmithy works	-do-	0.36
11. Brick and Tile works	Brick manufacturing	0.18
12. Biscuit Bakery	Biscuits	0.1
13. Beedi Cigar rolling	Manufacture of Beedies and Cigars	0.1
14. Toys and Dolls making	Toys and Dolls	0.1
15. Candle and Agarbathi	Candle and Agarbathis	0.1
16. Lime burning	Production of lime	0.1

Industrial Co-operatives : The growth of small scale industries in Kanniyakumari district has been on the increase, which can be attributed to the part played by the Industrial Co-operatives and they figure prominently in the matter of production of industrial and consumer goods. Under the small scale industries, they cover many types of industries

such as coir works, oil extraction, fibre works, metal casting, umbrella manufacture, industrial engineering, printing press, lime works and rubber manufacture.

Likewise they also contribute to the development of traditional handicrafts, such as stone images, wood carvings, palm leaf products, lace and embroidery, sea shell toys and bamboo articles etc.

The coir industrial co-operatives are gaining ground and they are expected to make a substantial contribution to the coir industry.

There were 18 industrial cooperatives in the district as on 31 March 1981 comprising eight Coir Workers Industrial Co-operatives, five Handicrafts Industrial Societies, one Safety Matches service society and four miscellaneous societies.[21]

Tamil Nadu State Industrial Co-operative Bank Ltd : During the sixties, the Industrial Co-operative Societies had to face acute problems in securing adequate finance because they were not able to raise adequate money to meet their requirements either through their own resources or through bank credit.

With a view to mitigate their hardship, a separate Apex Bank viz., Tamil Nadu State Industrial Co-operative Bank Limited was established on the 13th of September 1961, by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The activities of the bank has been dealt with in detail in the 'Banking' Chapter.

The various industrial co-operatives in the district are as follows[22]:-

1. Kanniyakumari district Central Coir Marketing Society.
2. Pandaravilai Coir workers Industrial Cooperative Society.
3. Mullanganvilai Coir workers Industrial Cooperative Society.
4. Kallingarajapuram Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative society.
5. Mannakudi Coir workers Industrial Cooperative society.
6. Nagercoil Metal Casting Industrial Cooperative Society.
7. Nagercoil Umbrella Manufacture Industrial Cooperative Society.
8. Milaudy stone workers Industrial Cooperative Society.
9. Painkulam Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative Society.
10. Kollankodu Coir Workers Industrial Cooperative Society.

11. Mukilankudiyiruppu Fibre products Industrial Cooperative society.
12. The Engineers Industrial Cooperative Society.
13. The Ex-Servicemen Cooperative Engineering Works Ltd.
14. The Kanniyakumari Industrial Cooperative Society for Rubber Factory Limited.
15. Kanniyakumari Industrial Cooperative Society printing works.
16. The Kanniyakumari Wood Carving Industrial Cooperative Society.
17. The Nagercoil Women Lace and Embroidery Workers Cooperative Society.
18. The Kanniyakumari Small Match Producers Service Industrial Cooperative Society.

Industrial Labour Organisations in Kanniyakumari district [23]

1. Mineral Workers Union, Manavalakurichi.
2. Manavalakurichi Minerals Staff Association.
3. Kumari District Mill Labourers Union, Nagercoil.
4. Nagammal Mills Staff and Jobbers Union, Nagercoil.
5. Kumari Nellai Jilla Panchalai Thozhilalar Sangam, Nagercoil.
6. Kanyaspin Thozhilalar Sangam, Aramboly.
7. Kanniyakumari Co-operative Spinning Mills Thozhilar Munnettra Sangam, Aramboly.
8. Kanyaspin Technician union, Aramboly.
9. Kanniyakumari district Staff progressive Union, Aramboly.
10. United Front Federation for Repatriates, Aramboly.

Assistance to small scale industries :[24] Aimed to encourage the growth of small scale industries in the State, the department of Industries and Commerce has drawn up a number of development schemes like providing technical know-how, training, registration of small scale industries, providing financial assistance to entrepreneurs through banks and financial institutions, ensure supply of scarce raw materials on priority basis at reasonable prices finally assuming responsibility for marketing the finished products.

Besides the Industries Department, the Government and the various public sector undertakings like Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corportation Limited (SIDCO), the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (THHDC) also render assistance to entrepreneurs to set up industries

and to further the interests of enterprising industries as well. The assistance is by way of finance and infrastructrue.

1. Rural Industries Project Loan :– To promote setting up of industries in rural areas, the Government have declared the entire district as Rural Industries Project area except Nagercoil municipal town, and rural areas where the population is less than 25,000 as per the 1971 census. The District Industries Centre is advancing loans at a low percentage (6.25 per cent) as margin money to the new Industries. The maximum amount eligible per industry under this scheme is Rs.25,000 or 25 per cent of the project cost whichever is less.

2. Seed Money Assistance by SIDCO :– The small scale industrial units in the rural and semi-urban areas are entitled to seed money assistance to the extent of 10 per cent of the total fixed capital investment of Rs.1 lakh and below.

3. Financial Concessions :– This district has been declared as a Backward district and thereby made eligible for concessional finance from 1971. The Industrial Development Bank of India, under the Refinance Assistance Scheme has extended loan facilities at 6 per cent to the Banks and the State Finanical Corporations in turn charge 12.5 per cent.

4. Interest Free Sales Tax Loans :– New Small Scale Industries which are likely to pay a sales tax of not less than Rs.4,000/- in a year are eligible for this facility. Existing units having on or after 1 April 1978 can also avail of this loan facility, the minimum Rs.4,000/- and maximum 8 per cent of the gross fixed assets or Rs.1.25 lakhs, whichever is less. This loan is interest free, repayable after 5 years, in three equal annual instalments.

5. Power Subsidy :– Registered small scale industries which obtained power connections and commenced production after 1 January 1980 are made eligible for power subsidy as under :-

Ist year 30 per cent of the actual energy charges paid by the unit.
2nd year 20 per cent of the actual energy charges paid by the unit.
3rd year 10 per cent of the actual energy charges paid by the unit.

Concessions by the TNEB :– The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board offers tariff concessions for high tension industries which come under HT Tariff-I.

Concession to new industry :–

1. For the first three years – $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent of the HT rates.
2. For the fourth year – 80 per cent of HT rates.
3. For the fifth year – 90 per cent of the HT rates.
4. For the sixth year – full tariff.

The above concessions apply to both unit rates and maximum demand charges. This concession is not, however, applicable to the consumers, who generate their own power or have their own arrangements for production purposes and the power supplied by the Board is utilised for auxiliary purposes only. This concession is made available to the industries till such time they start earning profits or up to a maximum period of five years.

This tariff concessions are applicable only once for a new industrial undertaking. For any subsequent expansion or diversification of production the concession does not hold good.

Night shift concession for new industry :– New industries which are already there and which have not completed five years from the date of commencement of production and which are still eligible for the concession tariff and for future installations in all areas which have introduced and which are likely to introduce night shifts between 9.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. are eligible for a further concession of 40 per cent of the appropriate rate, for energy consumed during night shift only. This concession can be availed of for a period of seven months (i.e.) from July to January during every year limited to five years. This concession applies to energy rates arrived at after giving the concession referred to in sub-item for new industries. In the case of industries where there are day shifts as well, the night shift concessions, will be reduced from 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

New industries which come up in the industrially underdeveloped areas are eligible for a further reduction of 15 per cent of the tariff for the first-five years from the date of commencement of production. [25]

6. State Capital Subsidy[26] :– The Government of Tamil Nadu have declared Thovalai taluk in Kanniyakumari district as industrially backward. Under this scheme all new industries which have come up in this area are

eligible for a subsidy equivalent to 15 per cent of the total fixed capital investment which includes investments in land, buliding and plant. The maximum amount of subisidy to which they are eligible is Rs.3/- lakhs. Further existing units having an expansion programme of not less than 10 per cent of the fixed capital investments are also eligible for proportionate subsidy.

7. **Central Subsidy** :– The Government of India in 1980 have declared the entire Kanniyakumari district as industrially backward. So under this scheme all new industries started on or after 1 April 1983 have become eligible for 10 per cent subsidy towards their fixed capital investment (i.e.) land, building, plant and machinery subject to the maximum of Rs.10/- lakhs. Further they are also eligible for concessional finance.

8. **Price Preference to Government Store Purchase** :– The products manufactured by the registered small scale units are allowed a price preference of 15 per cent, when purchases are made by the State Government and Quasi-Government undertakings.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)[27] :
The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development which hitherto concentrated on farming activities has extended its operation to assist small scale industries also through the Kanniyakumari district Central Cooperative Bank.

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CHAPTER – 6

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

PART I — BANKING

Banking industry is the nucleus of a district's economy, touching various needs of all people. Throughout history, all economics with systematic trading have seen some men trying to earn at least part of their living by carrying on banking operations. These men have met one or more of the Community's needs for a safe place to store valuables, including money.[1] In the past, even temples also performed the functions of banking. Temples in Kanniyakumari district carried on the economic activities along with their normal religious functions. They received deposits from the public and afforded loans.[2] Inscriptions in the temples show that the temples even arranged for public auction of lands. (This would mean the tenancy rights). The money lending from the temporary treasury to the public, as well as the other functions such as the sale, mortgage and purchase of lands by the temple authorities on behalf of the temples have been engraved in the inscriptions found in Suchindrum temple[3].

Indigenous banking: Money lending is an old art. The origin of indigenous banking as a part of the Indian financial system can be traced back to ancient times. Until the middle of the 19th century, the indigenous bankers dominated the financial system of the country.

Indigenous banking in South India[4] : Agriculture is the main occupation of, particularly the people of Kanniyakumari district and the agriculturists are in need of loans and advances to carry out agricultural operations in almost all seasons. The Brahmins of Kallidaikurichy of erstwhile Tirunelveli district and the Nattukottai Chettiyars of erstwhile Ramnad district were the two principal banking communities. They held transactions in the districts of Ramnad, Madurai and Tirunelveli. The Brahmins and the Vellalas owned larger extents of land and the income derived from agriculture was uniformly fair, since the yield from agriculture was good because of seasonal setting in of monsoon.[5] Unlike now-a-days, there were no vagaries of monsoon in those days. The Brahmins of erstwhile Tirunelveli district are well known in the west coast for their trade and other allied activities, whereas the Vellalas confined their activities mainly to agriculture and local trade in cloths and groceries. Occasionally, the Vellalas combined money-lending and

banking with trade. The nature of their transactions was such that they were to be termed money- lenders rather than bankers.

The Brahmins who traded in clothes in Malabar generally found money-lending more lucrative and they combined money-lending with trading and the cloth trade gradually receded, when money-lending became more attractive.

The Nattukottai Chettiyars : The counter parts of the Brahmins in the erstwhile Tirunelveli district, were the Nattukottai Chettiyars in the erstwhile Ramnad district who are also primarily traders. The Chettiyars were exporters and importers of commodities in large scale in the Far East Countries. The system of banking and money-lending by the Chettiyars is presented in the following words..." It is a tribute to the upright system of Chettiyar banking and money-lending that no other system of finances has yet been evolved which is capable of giving to agriculture and business of this province the impetus and stability which Chettiyars have achieved" (memorandum submitted by the Nagarathar's association of Madras in the Madras Banking Enquiry Committee Report, Vol.III, p.1103.)

The Kallidaikurichy Brahmins : About the early history of the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins, there are no authentic records. It may be said that the system of banking conducted by them is more than a century old. The Brahmins of Kallidaikurichy, Kuriyur and Valliyur were bankers to the Rajahs of Cochin and Travancore. (Travancore and Cochin were two small Indian States in South India). Thiru V.Krishnan, Professor of Banking, Co-operative Training College, Poona, in his publication "Indigenous Banking in South India" states. "Even to-day, on certain occasions, the old and influential bankers receive presents from the Rajahs in recognition of the banking services they rendered during wars and other troublous times.[6]"

In Kallidaikurichy there are two bankers to whom the Rajah of Cochin owes a large sum of money. The bankers declined to give the actual amount of the debt. They say that the debts were given to the above Rajah by their grandfathers probably about the year 1850. They are regularly receiving interest on the amount. On the 'Onam' day, they receive presents of clothes from Rajah.

(The 'Onam' is a festival celebrated in a grand scale by Malayalees in the month of August.)

Since the beginning of the last century, the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins had a network of banking organisations extending over Travancore and Cochin. They might have helped the Rajahs of Cochin and Travancore with money, for paying the soldiers and other officers.

Antiquity of Money - lending : Money - lending is an old art. That it was in practice even in the early Aryan days is evidenced by the mention of money-lending as one of the four honest callings, the other three being, tillage, trade and harvesting. (Cambridge History of India, Vol. I., p. 218). The rates of interest on loans are also specified, and usurious rates are condemned.

The business of banking consists of taking money on deposits and also of issuing crafts by which transfer of loanable capital is facilitated. The funds obtained as deposits together with the capital brought into the business by the bankers are employed in making advances in discounting bills, and making investments in giltedged securities, and a part is kept in cash to meet current requirements. The distinction between money lender and a banker was not rigid in the earlier days.

There was a practice in vogue among the indigenous bankers called "Thulai Transaction". (Transaction that took place between the indigenous bankers in two or three or more trade centres). Wherein an urban financier used to ask another rural financier doing business with his own capital to collect money for the bills he drew on the traders in the village, for goods sent from urban centres to rural parts.

There were money-lenders who though they did business mainly with their own capital, at times, took deposits which lied with them for years, but did not allow cheques to be drawn upon them. There was another instance of money-lenders receiving recurring deposits in the shape of contributions towards chit fund.

The rural financiers who collected money for the drafts sent by the urban indigenous bankers did not take deposits as a matter of ordinary business nor did they discharge the major function of allowing cheques to be drawn upon them. So, they were not bankers, but banker-*cum*-money-lenders. There were cases where the financier conducted Chit Funds.

'*Money-lender*' means a person who does not usually receive deposits, but who lends, mainly to agriculturists and artisans and who

does not allow cheques to be drawn upon him as in the usual course of business.

'BANKER' is a person or an institution who or which receives depositis in the course of business deals mainly with traders, and allows drafts to be drawn' upon his or its funds. 'Indigenous bankers' would mean only such persons or banks who conduct their business along indigenous lines, following traditional practices excluding even those jointstock banks. The Negotiable Instruments Act of 1881 lays down that 'the banker includes persons or corporation or company acting as 'bankers'. According to Dr. H.L. Hart (Law of Banking) a banker is one who in ordinary course of business, honours cheques drawn upon him, by persons from and for whom he receives money on current account.' Sir John Poget, a well known authority says as thus, "It is, therefore, a fair deduction that no one and nobody corporate or otherwise, can be a banker who does not(1) take deposit account; (2) take current account : (3) issue and pay cheques drawn on himself, and (4) collect cheques crossed and uncrossed for his customers".

The indigenous bankers in the erstwhile Tirunelveli district went by the name of 'Hundi merchants' and their bankers were called Hundi shops (Hundial kadai). Their business was commonly known as *Hundiyal vyaparam* (Hundial trade). The Nattukottai Chettiyars styled themselves as bankers though they did business similar to that done by the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins. In the language of indigenous bankers, no rigid distinction was observed between a banker (Hundi merchant) and a money lender. The hundi merchant advanced money on cash-credit basis, allowed Hundis to be drawn upon him, and received Hundis for collection and financed trade.

The money-lender financed agriculture, trade advances against the pledge of gold ornaments, lent money against the mortgage of house and landed property, allowed cash credits to the artisans and did not usually take deposits. Daily transactions consisted of receipt of interest from customers, repayment of loans taken, and advances made against Jewels. The agriculturists generally borrowed for conducting their agricultural operations or for consumption and paid the principal and interest only after a long interval of time. The clients of the Hundi merchants were mostly non-agriculturists depending on occupations other than agriculture and only 3 per cent of the customers of Hundi merchants were agriculturists.

The Madras Banking Enquiry Committee says (Vol.I p. 237) that "the use of the term 'bank' carries with it, a certain dignity and a *prima facie* assumption that the banker is on a sounder basis of credit and a safer person to be entrusted with funds than the money-lender but if this is further enhanced by the restriction of the use of the title, some definition becomes necessary," The use of the term 'Bank' in respect of indigenous bankers does not receive money either in town or village, but, it is quite contrary in village side, for instance, in villages and even in towns, *Rokka Kadai* (money lending shop) commands a greater dignity than banks.

One interesting feature that was noticeable in the former organisation of Kallidaikurichy bankers was that it provided for great elasticity both in respect of organisation and dissolution without prejudicially affecting the efficiency of the firm. Another feature was the higher sense of business morality of these bankers and their respect for the decision of a board or committee set up either for settling disputes or conducting liquidation proceedings.

The Nattukottai Chettiyars did large portion of their business in Burma, the Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements and important places in the Malay Archipelago, French Indo-China, China and Ceylon, while the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins had confined their activities to the erstwhile districts of Ramnad, Madurai and Tirunelveli and the States of Travancore and Cochin.

The various devises which the Chettiyars adopted to raise common funds like Mahimai,[7] Asthivari,[8] and Pullivari[9] were not altogether lacking among the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins also. The latter also set apart a portion of the profit at the end of each year for Dharmam or Charity. The amount so collected was spent towards renovation of temples, maintenance of choultries, performance of festivals etc. In the case of both Chettiyars and the Brahmins, the amount so collected through Mahimai, Pullivari, Othapanam,[10] etc. were not utilised in reviving a bankrupt.

The relation between one Chettiyar banker and another Chettiyar banker consisted in the granting of overdrafts and cash credits and allowing others to draw upon their firms in various centres of trade, or 'thulais' to facilitate transmission of funds, to enable marketing operations

to be carried on easily and also to raise enough funds. This system was called 'Adathai system' under which commission was charged on the turnover by way of 'Vindas' or 'Vattam' (commissions).

In the case of Chettiyars, the interest payable by each party from time to time depended on the "Nadappu Vatti" or the current Chetti rate prevailing in different centres, while the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins fixed the rate of interest before hand and the rate charged by them to the customers depended upon the experience and financial strength of the customers seeking accommodation with them.

The indigenous banker financed the small traders, village artisans and the small scale industrialists directly. There were transactions between the indigenous bankers and the Imperial Bank. Incidentally, he dealt in produce trade combined with his money-lending business. Some money lenders financed agriculturists, the toddy drawers and the cultivators of betel- wine, with a view to get hold of the produce they derived. The professional money-lender, the ryot-money-lender, the trader money-lender, the mandimen, the grocer and other stray individuals having spare cash, all financed the agriculturists by advances made in kind or cash during the sowing season, which was repayable at the harvest season, either in kind or cash at a price fixed before hand or at the harvest price, that was prevailing.

Methods adopted by Money-lenders : Lending money on promissory notes was an universal feature of all these financing agencies. The money-lender advancing money to agriculturists on pro-notes did not in those days, care about the purposes for which the loan was required by the agriculturists. The indigenous bankers were particular that the loan was used generally for production purposes. The money lender financed directly the people engaged in small-scale industries such as mat weaving, brass and bronze- ware making and the weaving of coarse cotton fabrics.

Promissory note as an instrument to raise loans was resorted to by persons for unproductive purposes mostly on extravagant marriages, unnecessary litigation and costly tours in India and outside. The big money-lenders advanced money on pro-notes for such purposes. In taking a guarantor's signature as surity, the money-lender used to remind him of

the wise words of Quarles "Be thou careful for whom thou becomest surety and for no more than thou art able to discharge if thou lovest liberty." In indigenous money lending system the borrower was a slave to the lender, while the surety was a slave to both.

The village money-lender, who was the friend, philosopher and guide of the ryot and the village artisan, lent money on pro- notes and against jewels to them. The rate of interest charged by this type of money-lender compared favourable with the rate charged by the banker for his clients, and ranged from 12 to 18 per cent. The women of the village also did this money-lending business on pro-notes. Sometimes, pro-notes were registered. Registration of the pro-notes offered to the lender greater security. The practice of registering a pro-note was the outcome of the necessity of dealing with illiterate people, who could not even sign their names. In such cases, the thumb impression of the maker of the promissory note was taken.

Loans were also given in kind by ryot money-lenders. Such loans were in the form of advances of seed for sowing, paddy for domestic consumption etc. Giving loans in kind was not practised by bigger money-lenders. Loans in kind were common in the villages, particularly, among the lower classes of agricultural labourers. There were two types among the mandimen, who financed agriculturists. Mandimen, in the southern districts of Tirunelveli-Madurai and Ramnad meant wholesale buyers of paddy for retail trade, with the object of gaining profit. This type of mandimen did not generally finance agriculturists. The other type of mandimen were commission agents noted for their simplicity. They did not buy the produce outright, but helped the ryot in marketing his produce, for a very small and moderate commission.

The practice that was in vogue was that the ryots used to get advances from a particular class of Brahmins such as purohits, temple priests, school masters, and widows, who had no land but who required a definite quantity of paddy for domestic consumption every year, stipulated at the time of lending that the loan should be repaid only in kind and that at a particular price, fixed before hand. The agriculturists also borrowed, money against mortgage and undertook to pay interest in kind at a stipulated price.

But, the system was different in the case of products like palmyra, jaggery and betel-wine. The merchant money lender who was otherwise called in those days by the nick name of jaggery- Chetti, financed the

small toddy drawers, since toddy was a seasonal produce. The merchants who advanced money stipulated that the advances should be repaid in kind, at a fixed price.

In the case of betel-wine cultivation, whenever the cultivator of betal-wine received advances from the trade-money lender, he had to return the advance in kind and at a fixed price up to the amount of the advances taken. The small alien money-lender's terms were usurious and they collected the money back through horror.

"Sir A. Seshiah Sastri, (Organisation of India Banking, p.22), the late Dewan of Pudukkottai, points the village money lender with a loving hand and says that in the rural economy of India he (village money-lender) is an indispensable factor and he cannot be eradicated." M.H. Sinha in his book [Progress of the Madras Presidency during the last 60 years, p.250 (appendices)], also more or less arrives at the same conclusion. Mr. Thakur (Early European Banking in India, p. 255) also has a kind word to say about them. Mr. Krishnan says that at any rate as far as Madras Presidency is concerned, he is a presiding genius of the village and he is not as pernicious as he is made out to be by some authors, and hence efforts should be made to preserve him, depriving him of his fangs.

The members of the Mohammedan community who were temporary emigrants from Tiruchirappalli district were also engaged in money lending and they too adopted the promissory note method of lending money by using printed forms with blank spaces, for being filled up with information regarding the maker, and the money lender, capital lent, rate of interest etc. The local lenders were however, interested in the welfare of the ryots and other daily labourers, who were necessary for the cultivation of their lands.

Transmission of money from place to place, drawing and discounting of Hundis, money charging, receiving of deposits, and accepting valuables for safe custody, giving letters of credit on commission to merchants requiring money in several trade centres were some of the more important functions performed by the indigenous bankers. Financing the movement of produce from place to place, giving advances to traders, big village artisans and landlords for short periods, against personal security generally came next. The system of combining banking with trade, existed in the following trades namely in gold lace, yarn piece goods, salt, sugar, petrol and kerosene oil. Occasionally, the indigenous bankers took abkari

and toll-gate contracts. The Kallidaikurichy Brahmins cannot claim to have financed any large scale industry, whereas the Chettiars no doubt financed the large scale industries.

For imparting banking education and encouraging the people to save, the atmosphere in South India was favourable, because the two indigenous banking communities of South India, the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins and the Nattukottai Chettiars by their banking and money lending activity had established the necessary condition for saving.

The indigenous banks in South India, the Chettiars and the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins received deposits from people not only belonging to their own communities but also from others. Receiving of deposits, though one of the important functions of a bank, was not important as far as the indigenous banks were concerned. Nevertheless the relation that existed between the customer and the banker as regards each item of deposit and the rights and liabilities of each party had to be studied.

The different kinds of deposits taken by indigenous bankers were fixed deposits (*Thavanai Kanakku*) and current deposits (*Nadappu Kanakku*). The Chettiars called current deposits as "*Kadai Kanakku*". The term fixed deposit meant deposits repayable after the expiry of a certain period which might vary from a few months to about 5 years. One feature of the deposit received by the Chettiars was that they did not fix term deposits. Two kinds of fixed deposits were known to Chettiars, the "Thavanai deposits" and "Veyan Vatti deposits". The former were loans taken by Chettiars from the members of their own community for a period of 2,3,or 6 months and the interest on it was fixed monthly. In Veyan Vatti deposits which were also fixed deposits, the rate of interest was fixed at fluctuating rates of interest, described by its excess in annas per cent per mensem above the Nadappu rate, and the usual period was 3,6, or 12 months. The Chettiyars received deposits also on current account and the rates of interest charged for it was fixed on the 16th of every Tamil month and this was called Nadappu rate.

Unlike the Chettiars, the Kallidaikurichy Brahmins took fixed term deposits for periods varying 6 months to 6 years first as the joint-stock banks did. Like the Chettiars, the Brahmins also followed the mercantile system of accounting as between members of their own community while they followed cash loan system in their transactions with people belonging to other communities. The Brahmins had no Nadappu rate like the one in

vogue among Chettiars and the rates were fixed by mutual understanding between parties.

Nadappu rate, Kandu rate and Hundi rate, which were in existence then, are further defined as follows:

Nadappu rate.– The rate of interest charged by the Chettiars on current account and on Hundis bearing interest was fixed month after month. The dealings between Chettiars themselves were governed by this Nadappu or current rate. This rate varied from 6 to 12 per cent per annum and from centre to centre. The Nadappu rate of interest system or current account rate prevailed in 1929-30. Nadappu rate and Thavanai rate were applicable only to transactions among Chettiars.

Kandu rate.– Under this system, a loan was granted to be repaid in certain definite instalments. Interest on the amount of the loan at the rate settled between the parties was deducted before giving the loan. Among the Tirunelveli Brahmins and Vysiya money-lenders, the Kandu rate, otherwise called "Shandi Vaddi" (shandi interest) (Shandi-mens weekly market) was prevalent.

Hundi rate.– The discount rate of the Imperial Bank was called the Hundi rate. It was the rate at which the Imperial Bank discounted the Hundis or trade bills drawn by the indigenous bankers and joint-stock banks on it. Bazaar rate was also common among the bankers.

Indigenous savings institutions like Chit funds were also prevalent before communications developed, when the village had to be largely self sufficient. The Nidhis were the counterparts of the Chit-funds practised in the northern districts of the Presidency.

Kuries or Chits.– Before the establishment of commercial banks and co-operative credit societies, Kuries or Chits discharged the functions of savings trust for a long time in the district. It is also met to some extent the purpose when the demand for credit for the productive activities increased with the dent of these regions, the resources mobilised by the kuries were inadequate and other forms of banking activities were started in the erstwhile Travancore State. As a result, yela nidhi's on the pattern of kuries were set up in Southern Travancore region. These yela nidhis, which came into prominence after the passing of the Travancore Companies Regulation Act of 1885, gradually assumed the form of banking companies on the passing of the companies Regulation Act of 1917 by the

Travancore State Government. The commercial banks gradually developed in the district with the influence of their counterparts in Travancore.

Commercial Bank : In course of time, the rural artisans, and the industrialists of small scale industries in general and the agriculturists in particular had developed an attitude to ignore the conventional money lenders, as they got frustrated with the abnormal rate of interest charged by the money lenders later. The money lenders had no doubt served a useful purpose in supplying credit to agriculturists, but the almost fatal care, with which such credit could be obtained and the high rates of interest charged, had led to the overwhelming burden of standing debt. The money lenders did not trouble to find out whether the money they lent out was for a productive or unproductive purposes. It had, therefore, become absolutely necessary to substitute for such credit a much cheaper and regularised form of credit.

While the money lender served a useful purpose in supplying money to ryots, the middlemen served an equally useful purpose in acting as a channel for the distribution of produce from the remote village to the markets of the world. But, the money lender had became a danger to the peasant in the same way, the middlemen had abused his position by resting merely all the surplus products from the ryots. Frustrated by such nefarious activities of the money lenders as well as middleman, the agriculturists, poor artisans and the like wanted a reform to substitute such sort of unscrupulous creditors. Gradually, the money lenders had to face a down fall, for reasons best known to them. Besides, the establishment of agency houses by the English traders, the unification of currency in 1835 the development of means of transport and communication, causing deflection of trade and commerce contributed to the decline of the activities of indigenous bankers.

Partly to fill the vacuum created by their down fall and partly to finance the growing financial requirements of English trade, the East India Company now came to favour the establishment of the banking institutions in western style. The British agency houses which combined banking business with their trading activities, were the forerunners of the modern joint stock banks established on the European lines.

The first joint stock bank established was the Bank of Hindustan founded in 1770 by the famous English Agency House of Messrs. Alexander & Co.,[11] This bank was liquidated in 1832 due to financial

crisis. The Bank of Bengal and the General Bank of India were established in 1785 The Bank of Bengal, the first of the three Presidency Banks, was established in Calcutta in 1806 under the name of the Bank of Calcutta. It was renamed in 1809 as Bank of Bengal. The two other Presidency Banks viz. the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras were established in 1840 and 1843 respectively.

Although the Presidency banks had branches in important towns in the country, it was, however, felt that there was considerable duplication and overlapping in their activities and public opinion favoured a single Presidency bank for the whole country. In 1898, some witness who tendered their evidences before the Flower Currency Committee favoured the establishment of a central bank in the country, but the Government were apathetical to the suggestion. The Chamberlain Commission in 1913 suggested the appointment of a committee to examine the whole issue. The banking crisis of 1913-1917, however, brought to the fore the serious deficiencies of the existing banking system in the country showing the need for effective co-ordination, requiring the establishment of a Central bank. After repeated efforts, the three Presidency banks were fused into a single bank under the name and style "Imperial Bank of India" in 1921.

Besides the three Presidency banks, other joint stock banks were established in the later half of the 19th Century. Around the turn of the century a great spurt was witnessed in the commercial banking activities in the country. With the spread of Swadesi movement in the country, there was great spurt in the number of banks. The number of small commercial banks started during this period (1906 to 1913) was much larger.

In the wake of this 'banking boom', followed a period of crisis, which gave a rude shock to banking development in the country during 1913 to 1924. The major ones contributing to this 'debacle' in the banking system, had been neatly outlined by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee (1929) in its report. The principal factors were combination of the non-banking business with the banking business and absence of co-ordination in between joint stock banks. Again during the thirties, there was a considerable number of bank failures, due to global depression.

Hence, the demand for banking reforms in the country was voiced repeatedly, from all corners. Looking to these pressing demands, the Government appointed the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committees in eight provinces in 1929, besides appointing a separate Banking Enquiry

Committee for the Centrally administered areas. Subsequently, to complete the chain of enquiry, the Government appointed on July 22,1929 the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri B.N.Mitra. The Committee recommended, among other things, enactment of a comprehensive banking legislation covering the organisation, management, audit and liquidation of the banks in India.

These provisions together with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 brought the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India in April 1935 as the Central Banking Institution in India. It was, however, felt that the provisions of the existing legislation were inadequate as well as difficult from the administrative point of view. The failure in 1938 of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank Limited followed by the banking crisis in South India, necessitated the enactment of comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of the bank depositors. The Indian Companies (Second Amendment) Act 1942 provided for the compulsory use of the words 'Bank' , 'Banker' or 'Banking' by every bank and the Banking Companies (Restriction on Branches) Act 1946, required banks to obtain permission of the Reserve Bank of India before opening new office or changing the location of the existing ones.

Scheduled and non-scheduled banks : Banks have been classified as scheduled banks and non-scheduled banks under the Reserve Bank of India Act. Scheduled banks are those banks which are included in the Second Schedule to Reserve Bank of India Act. During 1942-1943, there was considerable growth in the number of scheduled banks in the country. A number of new banking companies were floated later of which, worth mentioning were Bharat Bank Limited, the Hindustan Commercial Bank Limited, the United Commercial Bank Limited and the Travancore Bank Limited.

Developments during planning era : During the planning era, the commercial banking system in the country has experienced substantial changes both organisationally and structurally. The review during the planning period provided a perspective, on, how the Indian Commercial banking system and the Reserve Bank of India have adopted themselves to the continuously changing economic scene in the country both in the banking structure and the banking policy.

Another major development is the establishment of the State Bank of India on July 1, 1955 by acquiring the assets and liabilities of the Imperial

Bank of India on the recommendation of the committee of direction of the All India Rural Credit Survey in order to stimulate banking development in the country, by providing facilities for the co-operative and other banks.

Other important developments are the review of the credit and banking policies, banks lending to agriculture and other priority sectors and the branch expansion policy under the short lived social control, nationalisation of 14 major commercial banks in July 1969 and of six commercial banks in April 1980.

Lead Bank scheme : To help commercial banks march towards villages, the Reserve Bank of India formulated the Lead Bank scheme (LBS) which was introduced in December 1969. This was a sequal to the recommendation made by a study group appointed by the National Credit Council to the effect that the development of credit and banking in the country could best be achieved by taking into account the differing local conditions in various parts of the country. The study group, under the Chairmanship of late Prof. D.R. Gadgil urged an 'Area approach ' in this context, with a further suggestion that the administrative unit 'district' be taken as nucleus of this approach. After a further examination of these proposals and after considering similar recommendation of a special committee of bankers, the Reserve Bank of India formulated the Lead Bank scheme. Under the scheme, a nationalised bank where it is assigned the Lead bank role, helps in all round development of the district including Banking development. Indian Overseas Bank has been designated 'Lead Bank' for Kanniyakumari district.

Scheduled Banks : There were only few scheduled and non-scheduled banks during early 1960's in the district. The scheduled banks were State Bank of Travancore, Bank of Madura Limited, Canara Bank Limited, Indian Bank Limitied and Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited. The only non-scheduled bank was the Nanjinad Bank, the earliest one which was started in 1937.

In terms of banking coverage since nationalisation, Kanniyakumari is one of the well banked district of Tamil Nadu. At the end of July 1972, 46 offices of 12 commercial banks functioned in the district with an average population of 27,000 for each branch of a bank as against 28,000 in Tamil Nadu.[12]

There has been a perceptible increase in the number of offices since nationalisation, the number having almost doubled, over a time-span of 3 years. From 23, in the month of June 1969 to 46 branches in July 1972 i.e. a 100 per cent rise had helped in bringing down the average population per bank office from 51,000 to 27,000.

In June 1971, total deposits of Banks in the district, were of the order of Rs.569/ lakhs and advances Rs.249/ lakhs. Nagercoil, the district head-quarters town accounted for bulk of the business viz., 61 per cent and 52 per cent towards deposits and advances respectively.

There were 81 branches of commercial banks in Kanniyakumari district as at the end of December 1977 spread over to 49 centres. All the nine Community Development Blocks have banking facilities.[13]

Scheduled commercial banks in Kanniyakumari district

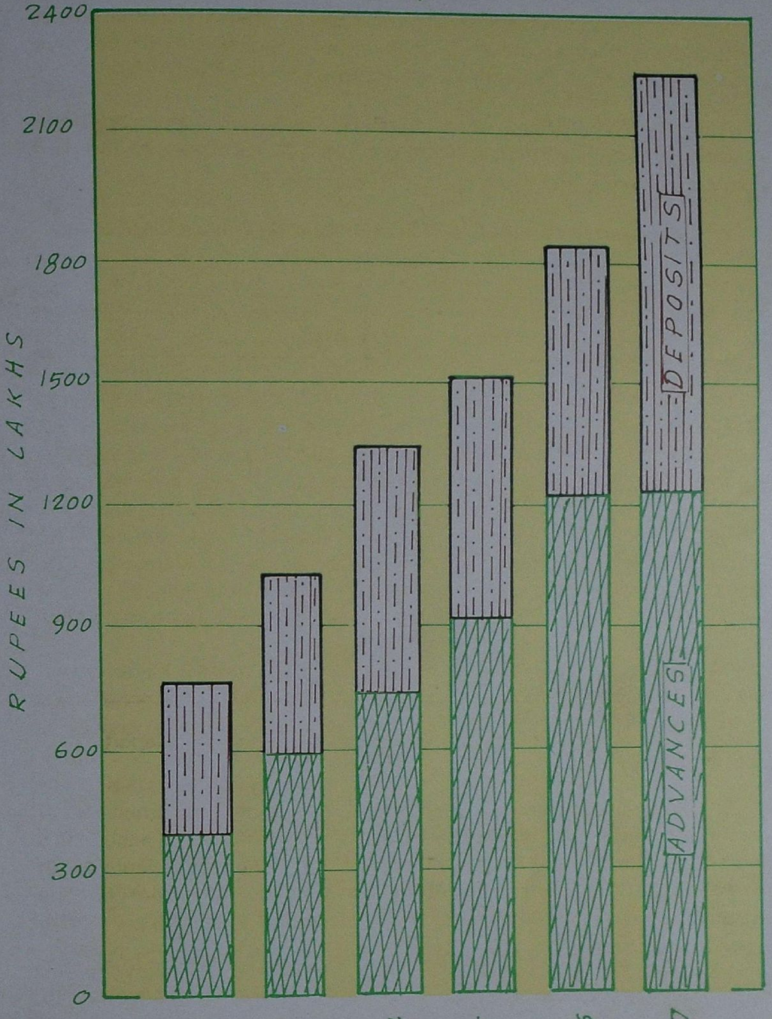
(RS. IN LAKHS)

Year (1)	*No. of office (2)*	*Deposits (3)*	*Advances (4)*
1972	47	784	402
1973	51	1022	595
1974	55	1363	741
1975	63	1520	917
1976	73	1838	1230
1977	81	2269	1236
Increase 5 years	72.34 per cent	189.41	

(Reserve Bank of India, Economic Department, Madras-1, Report dated 29 May 1980)

The above statement shows that the number of branches of commercial banks had increased by 72.34 per cent over a period of 5 years from 47 in 1972 to 81 in 1977. Regarding the growth of deposits, an increase of 189.41 per cent had been achieved during that period. The advances given by the commercial banks increased by 207.46 per cent in a period of 5 years i.e. from Rs. 402 lakhs in 1972 to Rs. 1236 lakhs in 1977.

THE DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES OF SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS (1972-77)



KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT – BANKING STATISTICS

(AMOUNT IN RS. LAKHS)

Year (1)	No. of branches (2)	total deposits (3)	total advances (4)	C.D.R. (5)
1980 (as on Sep. 1980)	85	4122.87	2212.17	53.7
1981	91	5283.00	2912.00	55.1
1982	96	6447.00	3259.00	50.6
1983	102	7542.00	4328.00	57.4
1984	111	8482.00	5145.00	60.7
1985	113	10234.00	5719.00	55.9
1986	114	12117.00	6665.00	55.0
1987	115	14900.00	9040.00	60.7

Talukwise distribution of commercial banks according to population range as on March 1979.[15]

Taluk	Population range					
	Below 5000	*5000 to 10000*	*10000 to 25000*	*25000 to 50000*	*50000 and above*	*Total*
Vilavancode	–	–	11	5	–	16
Kalkulam	–	2	9	10	2	23
Thovalai	–	4	3	–	–	7
Agasthiswaram	1	3	9	2	22	37

Bank statistics of Kanniyakumari district in 1979

1.	Population per bank office	(in thousands)	17.60
2.	Deposits per branch	(Rs. in lakhs)	44.31
3.	Credit per branch	(Rs. in lakhs)	23.07
4.	Deposits per capita	(Rupees)	253.70
5.	Credit per capita	(Rupees)	132.10
6.	Credit deposit ratio	(per centage)	52.10

The number of branches of commercial banks has increased from 81 to 84 by December 1979 as particularised below :–

Area of distribution of commercial banks as on 13 December 1979.

	Area	*No.of centres*	*No. of offices*	*Percentage to total*
1.	Rural	10	11	13
2.	Semi Urban	39	51	61
3.	Urban	1	22	26
		50	84	100

District Credit Plan (DCP) : Indian Overseas Bank had formulated first round of District Credit Plan (DCP) during 1978-81 for the district.

Subsequently, as advised by the RBI the implementation of the first DCP was terminated on December 1979 and second round of DCP for the period of 1980-82 with Action Plan for every year was prepared. One of the features of the second round exercise in Credit Planning was bank-wise, schemewise and blockwise credit allocation. The various details of the important schemes identified in the district and credit plan and annual action plans for the district are given in the tables below:-

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

SECTORWISE OUTLAY UNDER DISTRICT CREDIT PLANS

(AMOUNT IN RS. LAKHS)

Year *(1)*	*Agriculture* *(2)*	*Industries* *(3)*	*Services* *(4)*	*Total* *(5)*
1 District Credit Plans (April 1978 to Dec. 1979)	1371.25	139.10	54.43	1564.78
II District Credit Plans (Jan. 1980 to Dec. 1982)	854.92	372.18	126.67	1353.77
III District Credit Plans (1983-1985)	1281.68	383.68	392.51	2058.09
IV District Credit Plans	4127.80	1157.54	2448.60	7733.94

Adviser (Priority Credit), Lead Bank Dept. IOB, Madras - Report dated 11 January 1989.

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

SECTORWISE TARGET AND ACHIEVEMENT UNDER ANNUAL ACTION PLANS

(AMOUNT IN RS.LAKHS)

Years	Allocation				Achievement				
(1)	Agriculture (2)	Industries (3)	Services (4)	Total (5)	Agriculture (6)	Industries (7)	Services (8)	Total (9)	per cent (10)
1980	567.36	110.33	38.47	716.16	969.88	219.60	126.51	1315.89	184
1981	646.09	142.05	88.91	877.05	2095.65	436.85	306.92	2839.42	327
1982	745.10	149.91	121.48	1017.49	1306.11	441.16	266.86	2014.13	197
1983	916.99	169.38	172.92	1259.29	1520.31	229.13	255.10	2004.54	159
1984	997.78	188.49	207.23	1393.50	1486.87	190.21	286.87	1963.95	141
1985	1281.65	468.75	291.17	2041.57	2211.04	1102.74	893.24	4207.02	206
1986	1993.28	237.62	591.26	2822.16	2299.64	239.21	1029.72	3568.57	126
1987	2133.00	872.00	736.00	3741.00	2313.79	379.20	782.66	3475.65	141

Statistical data on the operation of commercial banks : As on December 1984, 22 commercial banks were operating in the district with a branch network of 110. The State Bank of India group, nationalised banks and private sector banks were having 34,46 and 28 branches respectively. Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Limited and State Land Development Bank were having 5 branches each. Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation is also functioning in the district. (Activities of the TIIC are dealt with in detail in the chapter on 'Industries'). The commercial banks mobilised deposit to the tune of Rs.79.73 crores and extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs.66.87 crores with credit deposit ratio of 80.11 per cent priority sector advances constitutes 74.28 per cent involving credit disbursement amount to Rs. 47.45 crores. DRI advances exceed the national norm of 1per cent. It is significant that Rs.66.08 lakhs have been given as financial assistance to SC/ST beneficiaries by the commercial banks.

As on December 1985, 22 commercial banks viz., 2 State Bank of India 9 nationalised banks and 11 private sector banks having 114 branches were functioning in the district. The State Bank of India group, nationalised banks and private sector banks were having 37,49 and 28 branches respectively. Among nationalised banks, Indian Overseas Bank has 22 branches. State Bank of Travancore was having 22 branches. In the case of private sector banks, Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited has large number of branches (14), followed by Bank of Tamil Nadu Limited with 5 branches . Bank of Cochin has been taken over by State Bank of India. The commercial banks in the district have mobilised a deposit of Rs.95.93 crores and their loans and advances aggregated to Rs.54.08 crores registering a satisfactory credit deposit ratio level of 56.4 per cent.

The commercial banks have extended a liberal financial assistance of Rs. 37.11 crores to priority sector accounting to 68.6 per cent of their total advances in the district. It seems that DRI advances on the whole was good as the commercial banks have reached a level of 2.03 per cent with the total credit deployment of Rs. 1.10 crores. A sum of Rs. 12.34 crores had been deployed by the commercial banks for the development of agriculture by financing small and marginal farmers numbering 45162 persons. 4054 skilled village artisans were financed to the tune of Rs.1.14 crores. 5827 SC/ST beneficiaries were assisted by banks to the tune of Rs.87.90 lakhs. An amount of 5.79 crores were disbursed under 20 Point Programme.

As on December 1986, the commercial banks in the district have mobilised a deposit of Rs.66.46 crores registering a satisfactory credit deposit ratio level of 55 per cent.

The commercial banks have extended a liberal financial assistance of Rs.42.38 crores to Priority Sector accounting 64 per cent of their total advances in the district. DRI advances on the whole is good as the commercial banks have reached level of 24 per cent with the total credit deployment of Rs.1.59 crores. Rs 24.79 crores have been deployed by the commercial institutions for the development of agriculture by financing small and marginal farmers. 6130 skilled village artisans were financed to the tune of Rs.1.64 crores. 8638 SC/ST beneficiaries were assisted by banks to the tune of Rs. 1.25 crores. An amount of Rs.7.33 crores were disbursed under 20 point programme.

Comparative Statement as at the end of December[18]

		1984	*1985*	*1986*
1.	No. of bank branches including KDCCB and SLDB	115	115	115
2.	Deposits (in thousands)	797320	959317	1209474
3.	Outstanding Advances (in thousands)	668716	540855	664571
4.	Credit-deposit Ratio	80.11	50.4	55
5.	DRI Scheme	10665	11078	11986
6.	SC/ST beneficiaries	10665	8750	12555

At the end of December, 1987, there were 115 branches of the commercial banks spreading over 97 centres.[19] They served an average population of 12339 per bank office 10 public sector banks and 11 private sector banks have operated in the district in 1987.

20. Number of bank offices and Centres as on 31 December 1987

		No. of Offices	Centres
1.	***State Bank Group -***		
	1. State Bank of Travancore	23	17
	2. State Bank of India	15	12
		38	29
2.	***Public Sector Banks*** *(Nationalised) –*		
	1. Indian Overseas Bank	22	18
	2. Canara Bank	13	9
	3. Syndicate Bank	4	4
	4. Indian Bank	3	3
	5. Central Bank of India	3	3
	6. Union Bank of India	2	2
	7. UCO Bank	1	1
	8 . Vijaya Bank	1	1
		49	41
3.	**Private Sector Banks-**		
	1. Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	14	13
	2. Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd.	5	5
	3. Bank of Madura Limited	1	1
	4. Bank of Thanjavur Ltd.	1	1
	5. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1	1
	6. Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	1	1
	7. Federal Bank Limited	1	1
	8. Karur Vysya Bank Limited	1	1
	9. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited	1	1
	10. Nedungadi Bank Limited	1	1
	11. South Indian Bank Limitied	1	1
		28	27
	Total	115	97

21. Banks Performance under Annual Action Plan 1986 [21]
(Amount in thousands)

	Sector	Achievements No.	Achievements Amount
I	***Agriculture*** .–		
A.	1. Crop Loan	64985	159902
	2. Minor Irrigation –		
	1. Wells	152	837
	2. Diesel/Electric Pumpsets	123	859
	3. Farm Equipments –		
	1. Tractors	–	–
	2. Bullock/Carts	487	3142
	3. Others	10834	27291
	4. Land Development	287	3039
	B. Activities allied to Agriculture –		
	1. Dairy	3378	8510
	2. Goatery	159	265
	3. Fisheries	2817	12231
	4. Bio-gas plants	276	1517
	5. Sericulture	101	715
	6. Bee-Keeping	4785	114
	7. Others	4785	11542
Total	(Agriculture & activities allied to Agriculture)	993169	229964
II	***Industries.–***		
	A. Rural Industries –		
	1. Handlooms	240	1367
	2. Carpenters Blacksmiths	359	1206
	3. Palmyrah Industries	–	–
	4. Others	3286	20566

B. Small Scale Industries –		
1. Engineering	46	508
2. Coir Units	95	274
Total (Industries)	4026	23921
III. Services.–		
A. Transport Operations –		
1. Taxi/Trucks	233	9581
2. Others	433	1991
B. Retail Traders /Small Business	8536	79537
C. Professional & Self Employed	4005	11022
D. Handloom /Educations	189	400
E. Consumption	309	438
Total Services	13705	102972

Bankwise, Sectorwise, performance under Annual Action Plan 1986

(AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS)

Sl. No. (1)	*Banks (2)*	*Agriculture (3)*	*Industries (4)*	*Services (5)*	*Total (6)*
1.	State Bank of India	22882	2029	7720	32631
2.	State Bank of Travancore	38056	6657	12703	57276
3.	Indian Overseas Bank	28944	2517	5994	37455
4.	Syndicate Bank	6462	854	2144	9460
5.	Indian Bank	13321	132	1237	14990
6.	Union Bank of India	2557	577	1398	1532
7.	UCO Bank	5033	14	325	5402
8.	Canara Bank	15720	1098	3634	20452
9.	Vijaya Bank	62	57	383	502
10.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	314	189	785	1288
11.	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	5595	85	1127	6807
12.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	38	..	215	253
13.	Bank of Tanjore Ltd.	835	1516	676	3047
14	Bank of Madura Ltd.	44	..	48	92
15.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	..	..	133	133

16.	Federal Bank Ltd.	999	274	492	1765
17.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	35	89	1036	1160
18.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	193	100	201	494
19.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	311	3	23	337
20.	Kanniyakumari District Central co-operative Bank Ltd.	81480	7479	61597	150556
21.	T.N. State Land Develop. Bank Limited.	4671	..	..	4671
	Total	229964	23921	102972	356857

BLOCKWISE LIST OF BANKED CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT AS ON 31 DECEMBER 1987

***Block Centre* (1)**	***Banks Operating* (2)**
MELPURAM –	
Arumani	State Bank of India Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Kaliyakkavilai	Indian Bank.
Kannumamcodu	State Bank of Travancore
Kuzhithurai (Municipality)	Canara Bank State Bank of India
Maliel	Indian Overseas Bank
Maruthencode	Indian Overseas Bank
Manjalamoodu	State Bank of India
Melpuram	Indian Overseas Bank
Padanthalamoodu	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Pulliyoorshalai	Central Bank of India
MUNCHIRAI –	
Kanjampuram	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Kappikadu	TamilNadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.

Kollencode	State Bank of Travancore
Nadikavoo	Indian Overseas Bank
Pudukkadai	Indian Overseas Bank
Thengapattinam	State Bank of Travancore
Thoothur	State Bank of Travanocre

KILLIYOOR —

Alanji	State Bank of Travancore
Iranipuram	State Bank of Travancore
Karungal	State Bank of India Syndicate Bank
Mangarai	Indian Overseas Bank
Marthandam (Kuzhithurai Municipality)	Canara Bank State Bank of Travancore Union Bank of India
Nattalam	Canara Bank
Thickanamode	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Eriam	State Bank of India.

THIRUVATTAR —

Aruvikarai	State Bank of Travancore
Kulasekharam	Canara Bank Indian Overseas Bank. Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd.
Ponmani	Canara Bank
Swamiyarmadam	Indian Overseas Bank
Thiruvattar	State Bank of Travancore

Verkilambi	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Thirunanthikarai	Indian Overseas Bank.

THUCKALAY –

Eraniel	Indian Overseas Bank
Kalkulam	State Bank of India
Kappiarai	State Bank of India
Kothanallur	State Bank of India
Mulagumoodu	Syndicate Bank
Muttukkadu	State Bank of Travancore
Neyoor	Syndicate Bank
Padmanabhapuram	Indian Overseas Bank
Pulliyadi	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd. State Bank of Travancore.
Thiruvithancode	State Bank of Tranvancore
Thuckalay	Canara Bank.

KURUNTHENCODE –

Aloor	Central Bank of India
Colachel (Municipality)	State Bank of Travancore Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Friday Market	Indian Overseas Bank
Kurunthencode	Indian Overseas Bank

Manavalakurichi	Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd. State Bank of Travancore
Monday Market	State Bank of India
Thalakkulam	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Villukeeri	State Bank of Travancore

THOVALAI —

Aramboly	Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd.
	State Bank of India
Bhoothapandy	Canara Bank State Bank of Travancore
Thazhakudi	Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd.
Thittavilai	Indian Overseas Bank
Thovalai	Indian Overseas Bank
Azhakiandapuram	Canara Bank
Thadikarankonam	State Bank of India

RAJAKKAMANGALAM —

Asaripallam	State Bank of Travancore
Eathamozhi	Indian Overseas Bank
Rajakkamangalam	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Thengarnputhur	State Bank of India
Nagercoil (Municipality)	Bank of Tanjore Ltd. Canara Bank (4) Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd. Central Bank of India Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd. Federal Bank Ltd. Indian Bank

Nagercoil (Municipality) *(Contd.)*	Indian Overseas Bank (3) Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. Nedungadi Bank Ltd. Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd. South Indian Bank Ltd. State Bank of India (3) State Bank of Travancore (2) Syndicate Bank Union Bank of India United Commercial Bank Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank (2) Bank of Madura Ltd. Vijaya Bank

AGASTHISWARAM —

Agasthiswaram	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Anjugramam	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Azhagappapuram	Indian Bank
Kanniyakumari Township	Canara Bank
Kottaram	Indian Overseas Bank
Marungoor	Indian Overseas Bank
Mylaudy	State Bank of Travancore
South Thamarakulam	Indian Overseas Bank
Suchindram	State Bank of Travancore
Vivekanandapuram	State Bank of India
Vadiveeswaram (Nagercoil Municipality)	State Bank of India
Kanniyakumari Township	State Bank of Travancore

Banked Centres in The District

(As on 31 December 1987)

1. Arumani (Manjalumoodu)
2. Kuzhithurai
3. Kaliyakkavilai
4. Karumamoodu
5. Pudukkadai
6. Kanjampuram
7. Thengapatnam
8. Kollencode
9. Karungal
10. Thickanamcode
11. Marthandam
12. Mangarai
13. Swamiarmadam
14. Thiruvattar
15. Kulasekaram
16. Verkizhambi
17. Eraniel
18. Neyyoor
19. Kalkulam
20. Thiruvithamcode
21. Thuckalay
22. Padmanabhapuram
23. Palliyadi
24. Mulugamoodu
25. Aloor
26. Villukuri
27. Manavalakurichi
28. Colachel
29. Thalakkulam (Monday Market)
30. Friday Market
31. Aramboly
32. Thovalai
33. Thittuvillai
34. Bhoothampandi
35. Thazhakudi
36. Ethamozhi
37. Rajakkamangalam
38. Vadasery
39. Nagercoil
40. Thengamputhur
41. Azhagappapuram
42. Kottaram
43. Marungoor
44. Suchindram
45. Kanniyakumari
46. Anjugramam
47. Vivekanandappuram
48. Agasthiswaram
49. Vadivanwaram
50. Mylaudy
51. Puliyursalai
52. Kaliel
53. Nadaikkavoo
54. Kurunthencode
55. Thadikkarankonam
56. Edalakudi

57. Marunthencode
58. Muttukadu
59. Asaripallam
60. Padanthalumoodu
61. Melpuram
62. Irenipuram
63. Alanji
64. Ponmanai
65. Kappikadu
66. Aruvikarai
67. Kappiarai
68. Koothanallur
69. South Thamaraikulam
70. Thirunandikarai
71. Eniam
72. Toothur
73. Nattalam
74. Azhakiyapandipuram

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) : Indian Overseas Bank started its operation in Kanniyakumari for the first time in 1963 by taking over the Nanjinad Bank Limited which transferred 3 branches located at Nagercoil, Eraniel and Thittuvalai[23] Thereafter, till nationalisation (i.e. 1969) the Indian Overseas Bank established only 2 more branches. But, in the post nationalisation era, 17 branches were opened, particularly in rural areas. Thus, 22 branches are now functioning in 18 centres of the district.

Rural Indebtedness : The problem of agricultural indebtedness has been a chronic malady. Admittedly, no single prescription can cure this problem. Mr. Pillai in his Economic condition of India states, "In treating the poverty and indebtedness of the people, it is essential to find out the root cause ; else the treatment will be of the symptoms merely and not of the disease. The eradication of the evil of indebtedness cannot be effected by any single remedy, but will require the persistent and simultaneous action of a diversity of remedies, the most important of which is the education of the peasant himself." The Royal Commission on Agriculture also struck the right note when they said:" It must be clearly recognised that the worst policy towards debt is to ignore it and do nothing". In India, agricultural indebtedness is not a new phenomenon which has appeared in the recent past. Sir Frederick Nicholson, in 1895, estimated the total debt of the rural population of Madras at Rs.45 crores.[24] In 1930, the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the debt at Rs.150 crores. But, the extent of indebtedness varies, not only with landed security which the agriculturist can offer, but also with the personal credit he commands.

Quite apart from the character of the people, agriculture in India, with the exception perhaps of the raising of a few commerical crops, is not a profitable proposition. The following observations of the Simon Commission holds good even today.[25]

The low standard of living to which the mass of India's population attains is one of the first things that strike a western visitor. Wants are few, diet is simple, climate is usually kind, and a deep rooted tradition tends to make the country man content with things as they are. "But the depth of the poverty, the pervading presence of which cannot escape notice, is not so easily realised."

The peasantry were steeped in debt and relief was an urgent necessity. There was the rule by which re-payment of twice the amount of the debt borrowed by way of interest or principal or both, discharged the Agriculturists' Relief Act, Act IV of 1938, but that did not go far enough. Later on, legislation was promoted to meet the rapidly worsening situation. It was not as if the agriculturist alone was in need of relief. There were others, the landless poor, who were in equally bad case. There was also the small income group who found it difficult to make ends meet and had to borrow at usurious rates of interest.

The documents of debt, however, recited rates of interest far below what had been agreed upon, and the excess interest was actually taken in advance by the lender from out of the principal amount agreed to be lent and recited in the documents of debt. And creditors rarely agreed to any abatement of interest. The legislature intervened and passed enactments, declaring moratoria from time to time, which barred action being taken in the law courts. Thereby, they afforded a little breathing space to the debtors.

The Act XXI of 1972 was passed and it afforded relief to the cultivating tenants, whose rent was in arrears as on 30 June 1971. It provided that, if the tenants paid the rent for the current year (from 1 July, 1972) the arrears would be wiped out.

The low income groups, it was felt, needed similar relief as urgently as did for the agriculturists, since the labourers, wage-earners and Government servants on the lower salary levels had been badly hit. The debt relief Act XXXVIII of 1972 was then passed with this in view. In respect of debts incurred before the Ist of March 1972, if a debtor had paid

twice the amount borrowed by way of interest towards principal or both, the debt stood discharged. In respect of usufructuary mortgages executed before 1st of March 1972, thirty years' possession of the mortgaged property by the mortgagee discharged the mortgage and the owner (mortgagor) was entitled to recover the possession. If the mortgagee had been in possession for a less number of years, payment of a proportionate amount discharged the mortage and the mortgagor could recover. Also, mortgagers could redeem the property mortgaged though it had been given for a specified period and the said period had not expired. There were provisions in regard to details which smoothed the path of the debtor (mortgagor). Nine per cent per annum was fixed as the maximum rate of interest payable on any debt incurred on or after the Ist of March 1972.

The Act, VIII of 1973 (amended the Act IV of 1938) provided relief to debtors who happened to own lands in a municipal or a catchment area which, before amendment disentitled them to the relief. It also provided that all interest accrued before Ist March 1972 shall stand wiped out. All amount paid, whether as interest or principal were to go in reduction of the principal.

Before the amendment, mortgagers of house property alone situated in a municipal or cantonment area or in a panchayat were under a disability. They could not claim scaling down but, they could, after the amendment. Another disability also was removed i.e. Debtors could after the amendment, claim the relief or scalling down, even in the case of women-creditors who owned property worth less than six thousand rupees.

The Act, XLVIII of 1975 afforded a breathing space to debtors by declaring a moratorium for one year, i.e. up to the 16th January, 1976, which meant that debtors could not be proceeded against law. As per provisions interest will not accrue during the period when the moratorium was in force in respect of certain debts.

Four ordinances were passed which were subsequently enacted as Acts.

1. The Tamil Nadu Indebted Agriculturists (Temporary Relief) Act, XV of 1976.

2. The Tamil Nadu Indebted persons (Temporary Relief Act) Act, XVI of 1976.

3. The Tamil Nadu Indebted Agriculturists and Indebted persons (Special Provisions Act) Act, XVII of 76 and

4. The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection [Amended Act (Act XVIII of 1976.)] Acts (1) and (2) barred the filing of suits or applications to execute decrees for 1 year from 15th January 1976.

No. (3) above provided that no interest shall accrue during the period from 22nd July 1975 to 15th January 1976, in the case of agriculturists and indebted persons (as defined in Act 16/76) but that interest would accrue on debts incurred after the 22nd July 1975. It also similarly amended the Tamil Nadu Pawn Brokers Act, 1943 in respect of interest and also prohibited the sale of pledged articles during the period from 22nd July 1975 to 15th January 1977.

No.(4) above provided that any person wishing to resume land should apply to the Revenue Divisional Officer who would allow resumption on equitable terms, such as reimbursing the party in possession for his labour in respect of standing crops.

With a view to give permanent relief from indebtness to landless agricultural labourers, rural artisans and small farmers, whose annual household income does not exceed Rs.2,400/- and who have incurred debts on or before 29 July 1976, the Government have enacted a legislation on 29 July 1976, giving effect to the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act, 1976 (Act 31/76). Another legislation was passed and the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act, 1979 (Act40/79) was introduced, which gave relief to the weaker sections, who have incurred debts after 13 December 1979 which are scaled down as follows :-

(1) In cases where the principal amount does not exceed Rs.500/- the whole of principal and interest shall be deemed to be wholly discharged.

(2) In cases where the principal exceeds Rs.500/- but does not exceed Rs. 5,000/- one half of the principal amount and one half of the interest shall be deemed to be discharged ; and

(3) In cases where the principal exceeds Rs.5000/- but does not exceed Rs.10,000/- the interest shall be wholly discharged.

Again on 19 April 1980, another enactment was brought into force by way of Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act (Act 13/80) which gave relief from indebtedness to persons whose annual household income does not exceed Rs. 4,800/- with certain restrictions and whose debts were incurred before 1 January 1980.

As the period of receipt of applications under the Tamil Nadu Debts Relief Act 13/80, ended on 31 July 1982, the Government enacted an ordinance 9/82, dated 24 August 1982 (Act 50/82) to cover debts incurred after 1 January 1980 and before 24 August 1982. A bill to replace the ordinance was passed by the legislature on 15 February 1983 and received the assent of the President of India on 15 March 1983. The bill also extended the period for receipt of applications up to 29 August 1983. The Government introduced Tamil Nadu Debt Relief (Second Amendment) Bill 43/83 in the Assembly on 18 November 1983 for extending the period for receiving applications till 23 February 1984.

The above time limit was extended from time to time and up to 23 August 1988. Though the extended time limit expired on 23 August 1988, on review of the working of the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 5/82) the Government have decided to extend the said time limit beyond 23 August 1988 for filing applications under section 5 and 7 of the Act 5/82.

Competent Authority

Tahsildar including a Deputy Tahsildar in independent charge of a taluk or a sub-taluk and any other officer of the Revenue Department not below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar is empowered by the State Government to excercise the powers and perform the functions of a Tahsildar under this Act.

The Tahsildar on application from both the creditor and debtor shall direct creditor to produce on or before the date specified in his order the movable property pledged by the debtor. In case of failure, the Tahsildar may enter any premises of the creditor, search and seize the said property. If the property is produced by the creditor, the Tahsildar shall deliver the property to the debtor.

Pending determination of the question by competent authority, no creditor shall sell or pledge or otherwise dispose of any movable property

pledged by the debtor. The provisions of sections 100 and 165 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1973 relating to search and seizure shall apply to these cases also.

Every order of the Tahsildar shall subject to appeal by the person aggrieved within such period and in such manner as may be prescribed appeal to the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned, be final and shall not be called in question in any court.

The special feature of this Act is that no party to any proceedings under this Act shall be entitled to be represented by a legal practitioner.

Penal Provisions : Any person failing to furnish the statement under section 5 or to comply with order made of direction given under section 5 or section 6 or otherwise contravening the provisions of either sections 5 to 6 of the Act is liable to imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months, but which may extend to one year and with fine, which shall not be less than Rs.1000/- but which may extend to Rs.5000/-.

In the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act of 1980, section 4 deals with, among other things, relief to debtors from indebtedness and refraining Civil Courts from entertaining any suit or other proceedings against debtor for the recovery of any amount of such debt and also about the release of money including interest even in case of debtor undergoing detention in civil prison etc.

Section 5 of the Debt Relief Act 1980 deals with among other things, the debtors, to make applications for the return of the movable property pledged by them and also the powers of the Tahsildar who is the officer competent to release the property and also his duties.

The Supreme Court of India, in its writ petition (civil No.S 5431- 33 of 1985 dated 3 June 85 has issued orders staying the operation of Section 4 & 5 of the T.N. Rule NISI / Debt Relief Act 1980 as amended by the Act of of 1981, on condition that pawn brokers who are members of the Petitioner No.3 (J. Mohan Lal Chordia and others vs. State of Tamil Nadu) deposit pawned articles in the State Bank of India or any other nationalised banks anywhere in Tamil Nadu, pending notice. This stay is still in operation.

Constitution of Advisory Committee at taluk level

In G.O. Ms. No.568, Food and Co-operation Department, dated 8 August 83, Government have constituted Advisory Committee at taluk level to facilitate proper implementation of the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act. The nature and duties of the above committee are as follows :-

(i) The Advisory Committee shall be constituted at taluk level. They will be called the Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Acts Implementation Advisory Committee.

(ii) The Committee shall consist of not more than five members, including its Chairman.

(iii) One of the members of the Committee shall be an advocate and other members shall be from different walks of life who are eager to attend to the social work.

(iv) Revenue Divisional officers shall nominate the members of the Committee and also its Chairman.

(v) The Committee's function will be purely helping the debtors at taluk level in preparing the applications with the connected documents and presenting the case before the Special Tahsildar/Revenue Divisional officer. The Committee may also give assistance of a competent person to the debtor to act as his authorised agent to present his case.

(vi) The Committee will have no statutory function, nor can it interfere with the *quasi*-judicial functions of the already constituted authorities under the Act.

(vii) The Committee at taluk level shall meet them as often as is necessary at a place in the office of the regular Tahsildar in a place to be given by him.

(viii) No travelling allowance/dearness allowance will be allowed to the members attending to the taluk level Committee and their services shall be honorary.[26]

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

I. Reasons for the predominance of Agricultural Credit Societies in the Co-operative Movement : Co-operative movement made its advent in India in the year 1904 during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon. The main objective of introducing co-operative movement was to relieve the predominant peasantry of India from the ever tightening grip of unscrupulous private money lenders who were charging exhorbitant rates of interest, ultimately leading to the estrangement of their landed property and gradually converting them into a class of landless labourers. Therefore, it became necessary to bring the agricultural community into the fold of some organisation, which will not only free them from the bear hug of private money lenders but also supply them with cheap credit and all the inputs required for carrying out seasonal agricultural operations without depending on private money lenders. The co-operative method with its character of self help democratic management and the practice of thrift, served the need of the hour well and so, as India is predominantly rural, its economy being agricultural in nature, the co-operative agricultural credit societies came into the scene in a dominant way.

India lives in villages. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people. So, is in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, agricultural societies were organised in almost all the villages to meet the credit and other needs of agriculturists. These societies were organised in important villages and also by grouping a number of small hamlets depending upon their size of population. The primary objective is that the entire peasantry should be brought into co-operative fold.

These agricultural credit societies are providing major requirements of agriculturists. They issue short-term loans intended for meeting the cost of short-term seasonal agricultural operations, agricultural requisites viz., fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, seeds and agricultural implements.

Now, it cannot be said that all the agricultural credit societies are functioning well, fulfilling the objectives with which they have been organised. As agricultural operations in India mainly depend on monsoon, and as it does fluctuate, so also the performance of agricultural credit societies. So it was reasoned that it is not the number of credit societies that counts but it is the volume of service they are able to render to the agrarian community which matters. Therefore, it was thought that all the agricultural credit societies should be viable, financially sound and self

supporting and be able to offer all services to the agriculturists in an effective manner. With this objective, the Reserve Bank of India embarked on a policy of forming agricultural credit societies on a viable basis according to which only the financially viable societies should be retained, the weak societies should either be amalgamated with a neighbouring viable society or liquidated. Grouping a number of small societies and forming them into one viable society is also one of the methods. This amalgamation process is in force in Tamil Nadu from 1980 onwards, and as a result, credit societies, in Tamil Nadu which stood at 4785 had come down to 4691 at the end of the co-operative year 1982-83. The total number of agricultural societies as on 31 March 1987 was 4655 in Tamil Nadu and it was 117 in Kanniyakumari district. Therefore, these societies are predominant in co-operative movement, neither by their number nor by their financial performance, but by their relevance to the lines of the people.[27]

Statistical Particulars relating to these societies in Kanniyakumari district are as follows (as on 30 June 1987) :-

1.	Number of agricultural societies	117	lakhs
2.	Number of members	2.12	"
3.	Paid up share capital	193.95	"
4.	Reserve Fund and other Funds	62.50	"
5.	Deposits	799.48	"
6.	Borrowings	1557.29	"
7.	Working Capital	3102.07	"
8.	Loans advanced (short term and medium term)	643.57	"
9.	Loans outstanding of which overdue	189.30	"
10.	Number of Societies working on profit (1986-87)	74	"
	amount	45.55	"
11.	Number of Societies working on loss (1986-87)	43	"
	amount	16.08	"

An Appraisal of the steps taken to relieve the farmers from the clutches of money lenders.

Co-operatives are people's organistation, as the name itself implies- efforts through them prove successful in the implementation of the welfare schemes.

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State to introduce the co-operative movement. The introduction of co-operative movement in Tamil Nadu in 1904 is the first and foremost measure in the direction of relieving farmers from the clutches of private money lenders. This movement made its advent in Tamil Nadu with the starting of Thiruvoor Co-operative Agricultural Credit Society in Chengalpattu M.G.R. district to meet the agricultural credit requirements of the farmers in the area. This is the first agricultural credit society in the State, which even today is meeting the credit needs of its members. The co-operative movements which made its beginning thus, has today virtually revolutionised the agricultural credit sector.

The agricultural credit structure in Tamil Nadu is a three tier one, the primary agricultural credit societies or agricultural service co-operative societies as they are called now, form the basic layer of this structure. The second layer is formed by central co-operative banks functioning at the rate of one each for every district except in Thanjavur where there are two central co-operative banks one at Thanjavur and the other at Kumbakonam. The third and the top layer of this three tier structure is the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank which is the head of this three tier system. The important role that these three types of co-operatives are playing in providing relief to farmers is discussed below.

Agricultural Service Co-operative Societies : (The nomenclature has since been changed as Primary Coop. Banks in 1988). These societies are formed in big villages or by grouping a number of hamlets. The primary objective of these societies is to provide short term and medium term loans to farmers to meet the expenses connected with seasonal agricultural operations and to meet their long term credit needs such as purchase of plough bulls etc. The periodicity of short term loan is generally one year (i.e.) the loan issued at the time of commencement of agricultural operations is recovered after the harvest is over. Thus, this type of loan is time bound and purely to meet the cost of agricultural operations. An outstanding feature of this loan is, that it is not only advanced purely by way of cash, but it includes kind portion also, which consists of the main agricultural requisites such as fertilisers, seeds,

pesticides etc. Thus, the short term loan is a package loan which meets all the necessities of a farmer for a particular period. To make the short term loan to serve its purpose more effectively and to ensure that the loan reaches the poor and needy in time, a system namely Annual Credit Limit has been introduced in Tamil Nadu according to which the annual credit needs of the members are assessed and loan sanctioned to them. Subject to the limit, the farmer member can draw the amount, whenever he needs. The Annual Credit Limit contains cash and kind portions to ensure that unscrupulous staff of the agricultural service societies do not take undue advantage of the illiteracy of the members of the societies. A system of crediting the loan amount to the individual member's account is followed and this system is known as the 'pass-book' system. This system is followed by all agricultural service societies in Tamil Nadu. This system, besides, protecting the members in rural areas from any malpractices, also inculcates a habit and knowledge of banking in them.

The agricultural service societies are equally responsible for meeting the medium term loan requirements of farmers needed for purposes such as, purchase of ploughbulls, power sprayers and other agricultural requisites. The periodicity of these loans is spread over a period of 3 to 5 years. The recovery of these medium term loan in conditions like failure of monsoon and other natural vagaries are rephased and thus repayment is made easier. Now, in keeping with the policy of Government, the waiver of these loans is also a possibility. Depending upon the conditions of monsoon, relief is given to farmers, at times, by waiving penal interest, and in some cases principal too.

Another type of loan advanced by agricultural service co-operative societies is produce pledge or grain pledge loans. These loans are issued to farmers on the security of produce of the members, such as paddy. The periodicity is one year. On repayment of the loan, the stock of grain against which the loan was sanctioned is returned to the member. In case the member defaults, the grain so pledged is sold by the society and the amount of loan recovered. The balance if any, is paid back to the loanee. This kind of loan is very helpful to the farmer to meet his unforeseen and sudden requirements. Above all, this type of loan links credit with marketing. Thus, the Agricultural Service Co-operative Societies render service to the ryots and these measures have relieved the ryots to a very great extent from their dependency on private money lenders.

These Agricultrual Service Societies in order to meet the requirements of their members borrow from the District Central Co-operative Banks which are their financing banks. The Annual Credit Limit applications prepared by the Agricultural Service Societies incorporating the credit needs of members is sanctioned by the Central Co-operative Bank, which, in turn receives funds from Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operativea Bank, which is the apex body as well as their financial bank.

2. **Central Co-operative Banks :** There are 17 Central Co-operative Banks in the State. The major activity of the Central Co- operative bank is to provide loans to the affiliated societies from its borrowings from the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank/National Bank and out of its own resources mostly raised by way of share capital and deposits.The State Government assist the Central Cooperative banks by investing in their share capital.

Apart from providing funds to the primary agricultural cooperative credit societies to sanction short term and medium term loans, the Central Co-operative banks are also implementing the scheme of provision of individual loans to the weaker section of the community by the cooperatives under differential rate of interest at 4 per cent from 1981-82. Under this scheme, loans are issued to the weaker sections, having an annual income from all sources which does not exceed Rs.2500 in rural areas and Rs.3,000 in urban and semi-urban areas. The difference between the normal interest rate and the concessional rate is subsidised by the State Government.

Further, the Central Cooperative Banks are also providing finance to the primary weavers societies for production and marketing of handloom products. The Central Cooperative Banks have also been permitted to lend for financing cottage, tiny, village and small industries under non-farm sector.[28]

Risk Fund : From the year 1962-63, Government have been making contribution to Risk fund (formerly known as Bad Debt Reserve) of Central Co-operative Banks under the scheme of outright grants, for financing Agricultural Service Co-operatvie Societies functioning in the agency areas and the concerned agencies have been making contribution to the Central Co-operative Banks for financing the Agricultural Service Co-operative Societies. The fund is meant for meeting the loss that may be incurred by the Central Co-operative Banks on account of the loan

issued to small and marginal farmers. As per the revised pattern, the contribution is at 2 per cent of the additional short term loans issued by the Central Co-operative Banks for financing the weaker sections of the population during a Co-operative year over the previous year and 2 per cent of the medium term loans issued to small and marginal farmers in the Co-operative year. Consequent on the extension of Integrated Rural Development Programme to all blocks in the State with effect from 2 October 1980, Government have pointed out that contribution to the Fund will be made by agencies concerned from 1981-82 and this scheme still continues.

3. Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank : The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank is the Federation of Central Co-operative Banks in the State. It is the apex agency at the State level, meeting the short term and medium term requirements of the Central Co-operative Banks for the purpose of providing agricultural credit. All the District Central Co-operative Banks are members of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, besides the State Government and 52 preference share holders

The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank receives funds from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and advances them to the Central Co-operative Banks to finance seasonal agricultural operations every year. This bank, though a Federation of Central Co-operative Banks, which mainly finances seasonal agricultural operations through primary agricultural coop. bank/primary agricultural coop. society also finances Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society, an apex body of handloom industry and to Tanfed, an apex body of marketing societies, which is incharge of distribution of fertilisers to the State.

4. Long Term Credit : Just as the Agricultural Service Co-operative Societies are incharge of short term and medium term loans, the Primary Land Development Banks which are 181 in the State as a whole, take care of meeting the long term agricultural credit needs of the ryots in Tamil Nadu. The long term credit structure in the State is two tier one, the primary land development banks forming the basic layer with the Tamil Nadu State Land Development Bank, forming the top layer which is also the apex body.

The main objective of the primary land development banks is sanctioning of long term loans such as purchase of tractor, digging of new wells,deepening of existing wells, installation of pump sets, construction of pump shed, clearing of prior debts and reclaiming of land etc. They

issue loan to agriculturists on the security of the landed property of members. In case of failure of monsoon, the recovery of loans issued by primary land development banks are postponed or rephased thus making easier the repayment of loans by members.

The primary land development banks are playing a vital role in tapping the ground water potential in the state by advancing loans for sinking tube wells, mhote wells etc., in collaboration with the Agricultural Engineering Department, which has been entrusted with sinking of such wells. This step of the primary land development banks has gone very far in tackling the irrigation problem of the ryots who are mostly dependent on nature's bounty which is always fluctuating.

These banks are not merely advancing loans for sinking wells, but they are also helping the ryots to get relieved from heavy financial loss in case the well sunk out of loan, proves infructuous by meeting the loss by giving financial assistance from the 'failed wells fund' created for this specific purpose based on the merit of the individual case.

Another important milestone in the service rendered by land development banks in providing relief to farmers is its switching over to lending for diversified purposes (i.e.) for lending for purposes other than agriculture, but closely associated with agriculture such as sheep breeding, poultry farming, dairy development, sericulture, horticulture etc., This sort of diversified lending by primary land development banks has gone to a very great extent in alleviating their poverty, as these schemes have proved to be the channels of additonal supporting income to the farmers to find substitute employment during the lean season in agriculture.

The primary land development banks are the members of the Tamil Nadu State Land Development Bank, which is also their financing bank. The primary land development banks are controlled by the Tamil Nadu State Land Development Bank in its capacity as their financing bank. Funds flow to the primary land development banks only through the Tamil Nadu State Land Development Bank, which, in turn, receives funds from the NABARD, State and Central Government for formulating and implementing all schemes meant for providing lasting relief to the needy ryots.

The democratic aspects of constitution and management of Co- operative Agricultural Credit Societies.

The general administration of any co-operative society is vested with the general body which is the supreme body and it is constituted by all the members of the society. Each member has got one vote. The General Body has to elect Board of Management of the society. The general body should be convened atleast once in a year. Special general body meeting may be convened by the Board. Ordinary general body meeting should be convened within one month from the date of receipt of notice under the following circumstances.

1. Such number of members or proportion of the total number of members as may be specified in the by laws.

2. When the managing committee of the financing bank makes a request, or

   When the Registrar calls for a meeting of general body,

   (a) Election of Board of Directors ;

   (b) Consideration of annual audit report and its adoption and approval of budgets;

   (c) Recommending amendments to by-laws viz., changes in the existing by laws, additions or deletions ;

   (d) Removal of a member from the society.

Management : The executive management of a co-operative is vested with Board of Directors, who are elected by the general body.

As per section 33 (3) (e) of the TNCS Act, 1983 the board shall consist of in the case of a primary society (other than a primary society specified in schedule) not less than eleven and not more than twenty one members as may be specified in the rules or by-laws.

Proviso to Section 33 (1) a : In the board of every society, there shall be one representative for SC and ST, one representative for economically weaker section and one representative for women. Economically weaker section means farmers owning or cultivating not more than half a hectare

of irrigated land or one hectare of unirrigated land and where any person owns or cultivates both irrigated and unirrigated lands, for the purpose of this clause [(section 33 (2) (B) (C) explanation 1)] one hectare of irrigated land shall be deemed to be equal to two hectares of unirrigated land; and other persons whose annual income derived from all sources for the two successive co-operative years immediately preceeding a period of sixty days prior to the date of election, or nomination does not exceed two thousand and four hundred rupees.

Some of the important functions of the Board of Management are Admission of members, allotment of shares and additional shares to members and approving of transfer of shares.

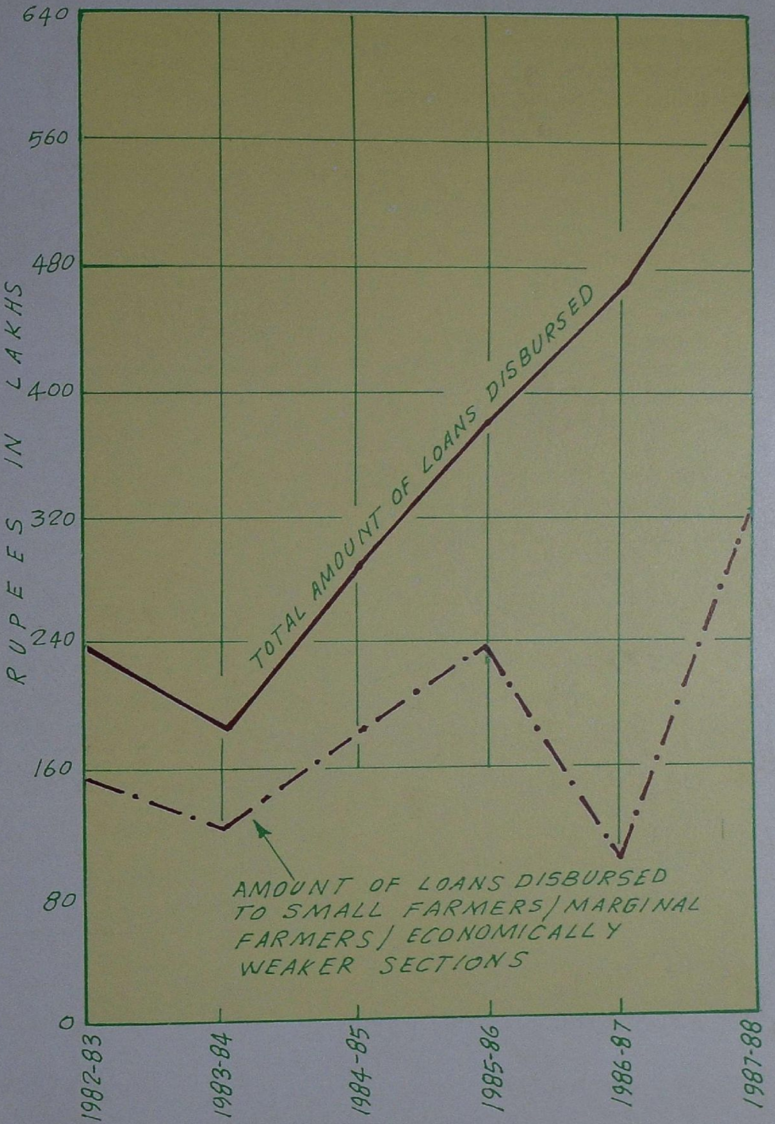
The Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank : The apex organisation in the co-operative sector in the district is the Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank. The bank was started on 14 September 1957,[29] with a paid up share capital of Rs. 3.29 lakhs, with five branches, the bank had in its roll, as at the end of June 1969, 465 co-operative societies, as its members, and deposits and advances to the tune of Rs.37.8 lakhs and Rs.166.1 lakhs respectively.[30]

The District Central Co-operative Bank has eight branches as on date in the district, and their location and date of inception are as follows :-

	Branch *(1)*		*Date of Starting* *(2)*
1.	Marthandam	:	15 September 1965
2.	Thuckalay	:	20 October 1966
3.	Monday Market	:	29 June 1969
4.	Rajakkamangalam	:	29 June 1969
5.	Nagercoil Town	:	27 December 1973
6.	Elankadai	:	10 February 1986
7.	Puthukkadai	:	15 April 1987
8.	Kulasekaram	:	15 April 1987

ISSUE OF CROP LOANS

(FROM 1982-83 TO 1987-88)



Progress in the Issue of crop loans from 1982-83 to 1987-88

Year (1)	*Target* (2)	*Achievement* (3)	*of the Col.3, amount of loans issued to small Farmers/Marginal Farmers/Economically Weaker Sections.* (4)	*Percentage of achievement in regard to the loan issued to those noted in col.(4)* (5)
		(IN LAKHS)		
1982-83	300.00	239.34	156.59	65.43
1983-84	300.00	184.79	121.00	65.47
1984-85	300.00	287.05	180.85	63.00
1985-86	400.00	379.54	237.78	62.65
1986-87	460.00	463.75	282.82	60.99
1987-88	540.00	591.03	323.30	54.70
1988-89	621.00	611.35	321.64	52.61
(up to 30 November 1988)				

During the span of 7 years, there is an increase in the issue of crop loans i.e. from Rs.239.34 lakhs in 1982-83 to Rs.611.35 lakhs in 1988-89 in the district.[31]

The following statement reveals that the amount of paid up share capital at the time of inception of the bank was only Rs.3.29 lakhs in 1957-58 and it increased to Rs.27.06 lakhs in 1967-68. During 1977-78, the amount of share capital rose to Rs.62.20 lakhs and in the year 1986-87, saw a further spurt representing an increase of more than 40 times, which amounted to 126.67 lakhs.

The Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Nagercoil[32]

Year (1)	*Paid up Share Capital* (2)	*Deposit & Borrowings.* (3)	*Loans Outstanding.* (4)	*Working Capital.* (5)
		(Rs. IN LAKHS)		
1957-58	3.29	8.75	8.20	12.04
1958-59	4.60	27.07	27.67	31.67

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(5)	
1959-60			7.04	39.54	40.78	46.67
1960-61			8.54	60.64	60.73	69.47
1961-62			13.06	75.41	76.20	88.91
1962-63			16.65	91.77	94.76	109.25
1963-64			19.71	112.39	106.71	133.36
1964-65			22.09	101.24	109.31	124.99
1965-66			22.92	114.03	119.43	139.65
1966-67			24.37	110.55	125.53	137.56
1967-68			27.06	132.99	145.27	163.16
1968-69			30.16	159.29	165.90	198.33
1969-70			31.53	146.78	165.37	190.28
1970-71			33.24	97.40	115.23	143.82
1971-72			39.66	188.46	198.70	241.86
1972-73			44.26	217.96	230.70	283.50
1973-74			46.94	208.09	220.54	285.61
1974-75			46.75	267.13	259.29	348.71
1975-76			50.77	248.53	239.14	343.11
1976-77			52.76	357.43	364.27	459.84
1977-78			62.20	420.03	419.36	527.30
1978-79			67.64	434.78	442.35	560.24
1979-80			71.53	507.66	570.90	726..28
1980-81			77.09	666.77	555.33	809.68
1981-82			90.41	1054.79	992.36	1229.97
1982-83			96.35	1118.01	1058.97	1338.63
1983-84			99.63	1299.30	1122.95	1537.85
1984-85			107.69	1483.89	1361.05	1749.53
1985-86			114.37	1771.25	1669.78	2048.10
1986-87			126.67	2111.96	1998.78	2436.05
1987-88			169.63	2746.45	2627.67	3192.55

Co-operative Banks : The Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Limited is the financing agency of the co-operative sector in the district catering to the short and medium term credit needs of the co-operative institutions established there. Besides, extending financial

assistance for raising crops, the bank provides medium term loans for agricultural purpose including subsidiary occupations such as dairying, work bullocks, bullockcarts, poultry development, bee-keeping, etc. The bank also finances the handloom weaver's co-operative societies marketing and processing societies, consumer stores, urban banks, employees societies etc. The Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., with its head office at Nagercoil has eight branches at Marthandam, Thuckalay, Monday Market, Nagercoil, Rajakkamangalam, Kulasekharam, Pudukkadai and Elankadai. Eight branches of the central co-operative banks cover 4 of 9 blocks in the district. The five blocks which have no branches are, however, being adequately served by the branches in the adjacent blocks. There are 118 primary agricultural co-operative societies. Besides, extending financial assistance for raising crops, the societies also distribute commodities such as rice, wheat,sugar etc. The Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Land Development Bank has 5 branches operating in the district. They provide long term loans to the farmers for the purpose like land levelling, minor irrigation, and horticultural crops. Besides, a People (Urban) Co-operative Bank is also functioning in this district.

Progress in the Issue of kind component of Loan[33]

Year (1)	*Total Issued (2)*	*Kind component (3)*	*Percentage (4)*
		(FERTILIZER)	(RS. LAKHS)
1982-83	239.34	47.43	19.81
1983-84	184.79	35.11	19.00
1984-85	287.05	55.44	19.31
1985-86	379.54	70.84	18.66
1986-87	463.75	100.10	21.58
1987-88	591.03	131.04	22.17
1988-89 (up to 30 November 1988)	611.35	127.16	20.80

Progress in the issue of Medium Term Loans

Year	Target	*Achievement under* I.R.D.P.		Non-I.R.D.P.		Biogas		Total	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
				(RUPEES IN LAKHS)					
1982-83	40.00	2827	56.25	–	–	1	0.04	2828	56.28
1983-84	40.00	1118	15.14	–	–	3	0.20	1121	15.94
1984-85	40.00	1547	32.00	657	13.35	7	0.32	2211	45.67
1985-86	50.00	1236	30.34	984	21.66	47	2.30	2267	54.30
1986-87	88.10	2907	85.63	641	16.65	42	2.55	3590	104.83
1987-88	55.00	2569	81.19	924	22.85	76	3.32	3622	108.89
1988.89 (up to 30 November 1988)	74.25	1580	53.10	474 28	11.15 1.23	50	3.64	2132	69.12

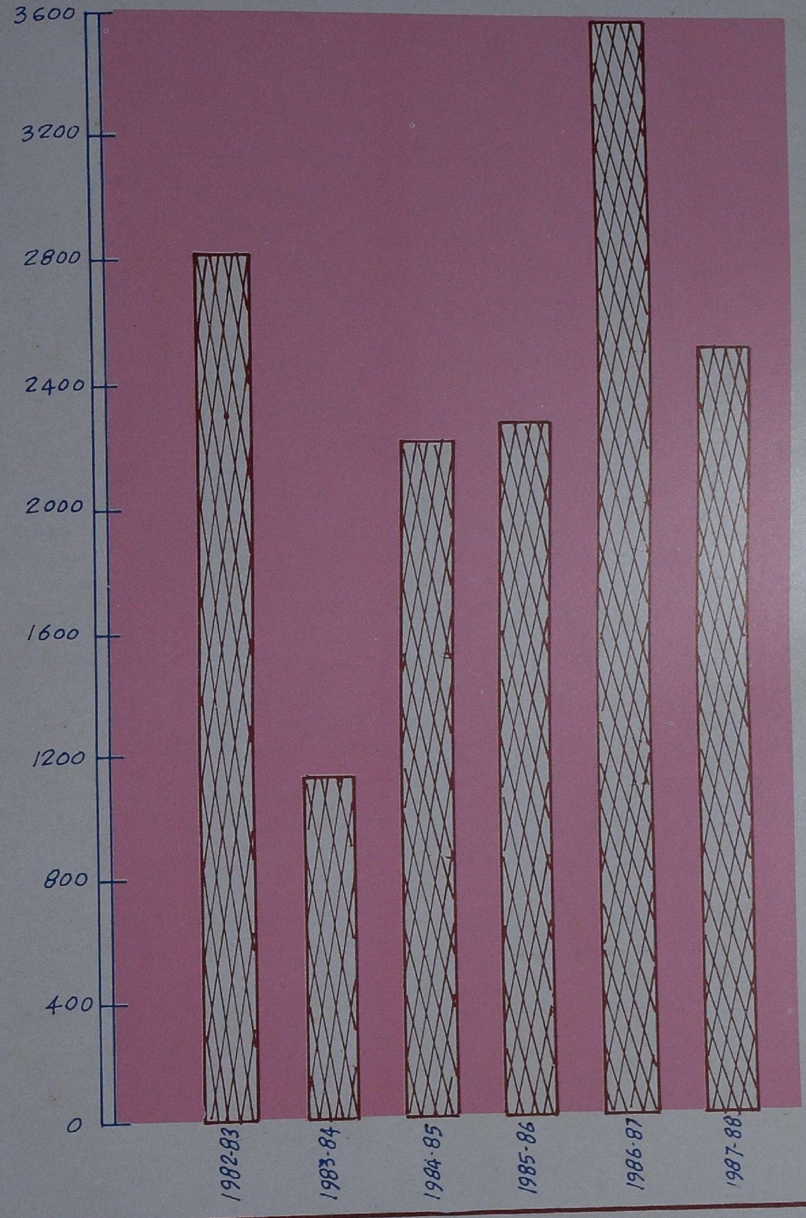
The above statement reveals that under the IRDP Scheme, a sum of Rs.56.24 lakhs was issued as medium term loans to 2827 persons in 1982-83. This amount increased to Rs.85.63 lakhs benefiting about 2907 persons in 1986-87.

Under the non-IRDP Scheme, a sum of Rs.21.95 lakhs was issued in 1987-88 to 890 persons. Under the Biogas Programme, a sum of Rs.4000/- was issued to only one person in 1982-83 and the amount of loan increased to Rs.2.55 lakhs benefiting 42 persons in 1986-87.

Progress in the issue of Jewel Loans[34]

Year	*Target* (PACS) Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies	By Branch of Central Co-op Bank	*Achievement by* By PACS	By Branches of Central Cooperative Bank
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
			(RS.IN LAKHS)	
1982-83	800.00	30.00	408.08	26.49
1983-84	600.00	30.00	644.99	26.27

ISSUE OF MEDIUM TERM LOANS
UNDER I.R.D.P., NON-I.R.D.P. AND BIOGAS
(FROM 1982-83 TO 1987-88)



(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1984-85	650.00	30.00	714.63	26.09
1985-86	900.00	30.00	903.23	29.72
1986-87	1300.00	50.00	992.46	41.67
1987-88	1300.00	50.00	1469.69	69.23
1988-89 (up to 30 November 1988)	1770.00	85.00	877.24	55.65

During 1982-83, a sum of Rs.408.03 lakhs was issued by the primary agricultural cooperative societies under the Jewel loan scheme and the amount increased to Rs.1351.72 lakhs during 1987-88. The Central Cooperative Bank issued a sum of Rs.26.49 lakhs for the purpose, in 1982-83. While it issued a sum of Rs.62.20 lakhs in 87-88. (Cropwise, acreagewise issue of loans are provided in Statement-1).

Co-operative Institutions in the District : During 1969, there were around 160 cooperative institutions of which 139 were multi-purpose cooperative societies with a total membership of 84,649.[35] The following table outlines in brief the performance of the various co-operative societies in the district during 1986-87.[36]

Societies (1)	*No.* (2)	*Member-Ship* (3)	*Subscribed Share capital* (4)	*Loans Advanced* (5)	*Value of goods handled.* (6)
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Primary Cooperative Bank	117	2,12,000	193.95 lakhs	643.57 lakhs	844.86 lakhs
2. Land Development Bank branches	5	19,224	35.00	60.09	–
3. Marketing Societies	12	18,293	1263	–	93.58

Statement – 1

The Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nagercoil [37]

(crop wise, acreage wise issue of loans from 1983-84 to 1986-87)

(RS. IN LAKHS)

	1983-84			1984-85			
CROP	*Acreage financed*	*Amount issued*	*% of coverage*	*Acreage financed*	*Amount issued*	*% of coverage*	*Acreage financed*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*
1 Paddy	6133	37.67	4.27	12954	93.13	9.01	13309
2 Tapioca	17146	119.46	49.96	19697	147.28	53.96	21377
3 Coconut	844	5.93	2.61	1556	12.15	4.82	2034
4 Groundnut	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 Banana	247	3.27	5.29	918	11.91	20.55	1722
6 Rubber	3532	18.46	18.15	3757	22.58	19.35	6929
7 Flowers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	27893	184.79	11.01 %	38882	287.05	15.35 %	45371

Statement – 1 *(Contd.)*

(RS. IN LAKHS)

1985-86		1986-87			1987-88		
Amount issued	*% of coverage*	*Acreage financed*	*Amount issued*	*% of coverage*	*Acreage financed*	*Amount issued*	*% of coverage*
(9)	*(10)*	*(11)*	*(12)*	*(13)*	*(14)*	*(15)*	*(16)*
114.50	9.26	12766	116.16	8.88	12577	114.45	10.94
172.89	58.56	23451	203.98	64.24	23329	202.96	77.77
17.45	6.29	2160	22.75	66.9	11514	123.78	26.69
–	–	–	–	–	1638	3.33	65.52
28.71	36.89	2174	57.24	46.57	1046	42.90	16.72
45.99	35.69	7964	63.62	41.02	9903	101.39	29.02
–	–	–	–	–	573	2.22	96.74
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
379.54	17.91 %	48515	463.75	19.15 %	60580	591.03	23.96 %

Statement – 2

THE KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED, NAGERCOIL.

(crop insurance particulars)

Sl. no.	Year (1)	Amount of loan Issued RS. (2)	Amount insured RS. (3)	Premium remitted RS. (4)	Average covered (5)
1	Kharif 1983 - I Crop	14,006.00	04.846.36	520.00	30.50
2	Rabi 1983-84 II Crop	2,64,315.00	3,56,239.46	7,125.31	643.56
3	Kharif 1984 I Crop	2,30,587.00	3,59,763.00	10,894.15	381.60
4	Rabi 1984-85 II Crop	4,85,673.00	7,57,639.00	23,772.36	683.61
5	Kharif 1985 I Crop	9,26,850.00	13,90,266.00	27,805.73	551.60
6	Rabi 1985-86 II Crop	39,91,963.00	59,87,965.00	1,19,759.35	2367.05
7	Kharif 1986 I Crop	73,36,030.00	110,04,056.00	1,67,897.87	4275.79
8	Rabi 1986-87 II Crop	38,83,340.00	58,25,060.00	86,527.55	2177.80
9	Kharif 1987 I Crop	62,97,323.00	94,45,995.00	1,46,666.66	3432.13
10	Rabi 1987-88 II Crop	46,01,758.00	69,02,645.00	1,07,345.00	2481,41.43
11	Kharif 1988 I Crop	–	–	–	–
12	Rabi 1988-89 II Crop	–	–	–	–

Statement – 2 *(Contd.)*

Farmers covered	*INDEMNITY*		*Area*
	No. of farmers	*Amount*	
(6)	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*
11	1	2,200.79	**KURUNTHENCODE BLOCK :–** **A. Antonymuthu, Neyyoor .–** **Insurance –** Rs. P. Company 1,650.59 Government 550.20
178	–	–	2,200.79
196	83	26,653.00	Rajakkamangalam Block
400	–	–	
653	–	–	
2142	100	13,016.30	Melpuram Block
3571	2088	24,83,573.28	Thovalai & Agasthiswaram Blocks.
1975	481	90,811.77	Thovalai Block
2725			Season already over crop cutting results not received from General Insurance Corporation of India so far.
1789			
–	–		Present Rabi Season. Area selected for Rabi 1988-89 has not been intimated to Central Cooperative Bank by Registrar of Cooperative Societies.
–	–		

Kharif : I Crop - April to September
Rabi : II Crop - October to March

The Kanniyakumari district Central Cooperative Bank also finances to the following non-farm sectors with the assistance of NABARD and IDBI Banks.

Progress in the issue of loans under :—

(RS. IN LAKHS)

		1987-88	1988-89 (up to 30 November 1988)
1.	Non-Farm Sector for SSI	11.98	47.92
2.	Small Road Transport Operators for purchase of vehicles	12.07	27.64
3.	Loans to Fishermen for purchase of Out Board Oil Engine	8.94	5.24
4.	Loans for purchase of Big Size Motor Boat.	–	2.00
5.	Consumer loans for purchase of T.V., Scooter, etc.	40.11	30.63

Progress in the mobilisation of deposits :—

Year (1)	*Position at the begining of the year* (2)	*Target for the Year* (3)	*Achievement during the Year* (4)	*Position at the end of the year* (5)
1984-85	429.02	70.00	87.19	516.21
1985-86	516.21	80.00	45.28	561.49
1986-87	561.49	120.00	54.49	615.98
1987-88	615.98	200.00	271.94	887.92
1988-89 (Up to 30 November 1988)	887.92	200.00	194.44	1082.36

Government concession granted to the farmer members of Cooperative Credit Societies in Kanniyakumari District through Kanniyakumari district Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Nagercoil.

		Numbers	*Amount*
			(RS. IN LAKHS)
1.	Penal Interest concession granted to Members who repaid their Loans	23586	4.51
2.	To repay the Medium Term Crop Loan outstanding as on 31 March 1988 against small Farmers.	1731	6.22
3.	Refund of Repayment made by Small Farmers from 1 July 1975 to 31 March 1980 in the medium term crop loan.	3279	15 12
4.	Interest Concessions to members (small and big farmers) who repaid their loans out standing as on 31 December 1980.	44437	41.72
5.	Reduction in the rate of Interest of (medium term crop loans)	9021	0.25
6.	2 per cent Interest Rebate to prompt repayments of small farmers	12833	1.57
7.	(i) Loans outstanding as on 31 March 1986 which are eligible for the present interest concessions by way of waiver.	27495	60.22
	(ii) Interest concession by way of refund to those who have repaid their loans in full from 1 July 1985 to 31 March 1986.	16107	22.82

As on 30 November 1988, there were 11 agricultural banks, two farmers service societies, 102 primary cooperative banks and one hill tribe society in the district. The total number of members in the primary cooperative banks as on 30 November 1988 was 2,19,042 of which 10546 were borrowing members.[38]

These banks are very particular in bringing the weaker sections in their network. As on 30 November 1988 there were 15,627 scheduled castes and 876 scheduled tribes as members in the primary cooperative banks covering 10,498 operational holding.[39]

Land Development Banks : There are five primary land development banks functioning in the district. The loanable funds of the land development bank are derived from their apex bank i.e. Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Land Development bank, Madras.

Sl. No.	Name of Primary Land Development Bank.	Demand from 1.7.'87 to 30.6.'88	Collection from 1.7.'87 to 30.6.'88	Overdue as on 30.6.'88	Overdue per cent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		(RS. IN LAKHS)			
1.	Agasthiswaram	27.97	14.25	13.72	49.11
2.	Munchirai	18.07	12.81	5.26	34.6
3.	Thovalai	21.47	9.71	11.76	54.8
4.	Thuckalay	38.26	21.66	16.60	43.4
5.	Thiruvattar	11.39	6.87	4.57	39.7
	TOTAL	117.16	65.30	51.86	44.3

The overdue position of these banks as on 30 June 1988 ranges from 34 per cent to 55 per cent. Most of the schemes are implemented by the NABARD. Refinance assistance, and also the schemes relate to land development and raising of certain commercial crops.

Refinance Facilities : NABARD and IDBI are the two important refinancing institutions to augment the resources. NABARD provides refinance in respect of term loan for agriculture, agriculture allied activities and rural artisans. Refinance to the extent of 90 per cent is made available for the eligible schemes under IRDP NABARD meets the IRDP banking plan as the schemes and sanctions refinance to the participating banks.

Storage Facilities : Out of 117 Agricultural Service Cooperative Societies in Kanniyakumari district 97 have their own godown and their estimates storage capacity is 13151 M.T.

Co-operative Printing Press : There is one Cooperative Printing Press in Thuckalay and its area of operation is the entire Kanniyakumari district. As on 30 June 1988 there are 366 'A' Class Members and 7 'B' Class Members in the Society and their paid up share capital is Rs.221085/-

One Cooperative Sub-Registrar has been appointed as Special Officer of the Cooperative Printing Press, with effect from 10 June 1976. The Society is also running two sales depots, one at Nagercoil and the other at Marthandam so as to provide easy access to the Cooperative institutions in the district for their printing requirements.

The business turnover from 1985-86 to 1986-87 are furnished below[41] :-

Year *(1)*	*Business turnover* *(2)* RS.	*Profit earned* *(3)* RS.
1985-86	14,00,000	43,000,00
1986-87	14,26,000	53.000,00
1987-88	13,69,545	86,929,19

Issue of Long Term Loans : There are five Primary Land Development Banks working in this district and the long term loans issued for the from 1985-86 to 1987-88 are furnished below :—

Name of the Land Development Bank	*Loans Issued* (RS. IN LAKHS)		
	1985-86	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
Agasthiswaram Land Development Bank	10.16	12.64	16.45
Thovalai Land Development Bank	10.44	8.74	13.17
Thuckalay Land Development Bank	19.21	15.57	21.77
Munchirai Land Development Bank	8.69	10.80	10.80
Thiruvattar Land Development Bank	12.23	12.34	20.03
TOTAL	60.73	60.09	82.22

Marketingwig : There are 3 General Marketing Cooperatives and 9 Vegetable Growers Coop. Marketing Societies functioning in this district. The Agricultural produce marketed by them are detailed below :–

		1985-86	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
Agricultural produce marketed	:	73.6 lakhs	81.28 lakhs	68.84 lakhs

The Kalkulam, Vilavancode Taluk Cooperative Marketing Society runs a fruit processing unit and a Tapioca Fruits Processing Unit with an annual production capacity of 120 m.t.

Fruit Processing Unit : The production during 85-86 was 70.81 M.T. During 1986-87, the processing was 52.81 m.t. and in 1987-88 it was 47.34 m.t.

Tapioca Processing Unit : The production during 1985-86 was 44-36 mt. During 1986-87, the production was 48.58 m.t. and in 1987-88 the production was 38.96 m.t.

Vegetable Growers Co-op. Marketing Societies : The 9 Vegetable Growers Co-operative Marketing Societies are supplying vegetable to 902 noon-meal centres in this district. During 1985-86, these societies supplied vegetables worth Rs.19.95 lakhs and in 1986-87, the supply was Rs.18.23 lakhs. In 1987-88, they supplied vegetables worth Rs.16.14 lakhs.[42]

Consumers Cooperative Stores : There are 18 Primary Cooperative Stores functioning in this region. The particulars regarding admission of members, share capital, collection of deposits, sale of controlled and non-controlled commodities during 1987-88 are furnished here under:–

No. of Stores	*No. of members*	*Share Capital* (RS.)	*Sale of Controlled Commodities* (RS. LAKHS)	*Sale of Non-Controlled Commodities* (RS. LAKHS)	*Profit/ Loss*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
18	7139	3.71 lakhs	240.80	117.71 lakhs	**

** Profit		Loss	
No.	*Amount*	*No.*	*Amount*
10	3.34 lakhs	8	1.86 lakhs

There are 171 students cooperative stores functioning in this region. The particulars regarding number of members, share capital, sales and financial results of the stores are furnished hereunder :–

No. of Stores	*No. of Members*	*Share Capital* (RS. IN LAKHS)	*Sales* (RS. IN LAKHS)	*Financial Result* *Profit* *No.*	*Amount*
171	5705	2.01	22.91	105	0-72
				Loss No.	Amount
				66	1.08

There is one Co-operative Wholesale Stores by name Kanniyakumari District Co-operative Wholesale Stores.[43] It is acting as the lead society and distributing wheat, maida, ravai and palmolein to the link societies. It is running Bagavathi Super Market, at Nagercoil and two mini super markets at Marthandam and Thittuvilai. It is also running a self service unit. The business turnover of the above said stores is as detailed below:-

Year	*Purchase* (Lakhs)	*Sales* (Lakhs)
1985-86	328.25	342.56
1986-87	355.35	385.01
1987-88	568.06	601.71

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Cooperative Bank Limited :[44] With a view to accelerate the growth of Industrial Cooperatives and thereby generate more employments in rural and semi-urban areas, the administrative control of Industrial Cooperatives in the State was transferred to the Department of Industries and Commerce in the year 1956.

There was a huge gap between the credit needs of these Industrial Cooperatives and funding by cooperative banks. The working group constituted by the Government of India recommended for the setting up of a separate financing agency for meeting the credit needs of industrial cooperatives to relieve the burden of State Government. As the conditions were favourable for the formation of an Industrial Cooperative Bank, the Government of India also accepted in principle to State partnership to Industrial Cooperative Banks It is against this backdrop that the Tamil Nadu Industrial Cooperative Bank popularly known as 'TAICOBANK' came into being. The Bank was registered on 13 September 1961 and formally started functioning in November 1962.

ORGANISATION : The Organisational set up of TAICOBANK is unique and broad based in the sense that it provides financial assistance to Industrial Cooperatives broadly classified as VSI Sector by NABARD . The broad categories of Industrial Cooperative financed by TAICOBANK are listed as under.

(1) Small Scale Industries

(2) Coir Industries

(3) Handicrafts.

Infrastructural Facilities : The TAICOBANK is vested with the following unique infrastructural facilities which are not readily available for Central Cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks in the case of non-farm sector lending. They are:-

(a) Technical expertise of State Industries Department in the case of project formulation and implementation.

(b) Marketing support available with the Industrial Cooperative Wing of the Industries Directorate with a number of marketing cooperatives and service Cooperative Societies.

(c) Cost and variance analysis done at the Directorate and budgeting of Cooperatives.

(d) Supply of raw materials from the Department of Industries and Commerce, such as wax, sulphur, cement, coal and coke, iron and steel and polythene granules.

(e) Mechanism for quality control.

Administrative Set up : The management of the Bank was vested with the Board of Directors nominated by Director of Industries and Commerce and Registrar of Industrial Cooperatives up to 13 June 1976. Thereafter, the affairs of the Bank are being managed by a Special Officer.

An Advisory Committee has been constituted by the Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce and Registrar of Industrial Cooperatives consisting on nominees of important Central Organisations to guide and advise the Special Officer an important policy matters and other specific issues touching the busisness of the Bank.

Branches : The Bank, besides its Head Office at Madras, has nine Branches at the following places:-

(1) Coonoor (The Nilgiris District)

(2) Kovilpatti (V.O. Chidambaranar District)

(3) Sattur (Kamarajar district)

(4) Madurai

(5) Truchirappalli

(6) Salem

(7) Extension Counter at Chepauk, Madras

(8) Vellore (North Arcot district)

(9) Nagercoil (Kanniyakumari district)

The Head Office of the Bank is manned by a General Manager in the cadre of Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce (Industrial Cooperatives) and a Deputy General Manager from Bank's Cadre. The branches are managed by branch managers. The branch at Nagercoil inaugurated by Thiru Syed Munir Hoda, IAS., then Collector of Kanniyakumari is functioning from 23 December 1987.

Growth : The Tamil Nadu Industrial Cooperative Bank commencing its banking business in a modest scale in the early stages has recorded substantial growth in all areas of banking activities during the last 26 years.

Thus, it has become a force to reckon within the matter of providing finance exclusively to Industrial Cooperatives in the State both for their block capital and working capital needs. This bank has made significant contribution to development of village and small scale industries in the State through Industrial Cooperatives on account of the policy of liberal financial assistance.

As regards the growth of the bank, it may be seen that the equity of the bank recorded a phenomenal spurt from Rs. 46.66 lakhs in the year 1971 to Rs. 296.00 lakhs as on 30 June 1988. The Reserve Fund and other reserves which stood at Rs. 11.47 lakhs in the year 1971 rose to Rs.222.22 lakhs as on 30 June 1988. The deposits which was in the order of just Rs. 46.61 lakhs in the year 1971 had reached Rs. 546.27 lakhs as on 30 June 1988. Similarly, in the matter of loans and advances which stood at Rs. 124.51 lakhs in the year 1971 had increased to the extent of Rs.1081.52 lakhs as on 30 June 1988.

The Reserve Bank of India has permitted TAICO Bank to pay interest on deposits at half a per cent above the rate paid by commercial banks.

The number of beneficiary societies has also substantially increased.

The working of the Bank : The TAICO BANK provides the following types of financial assistances to Industrial Cooperatives functioning under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Industries:—

(a) Term loan
(b) Cash credit loan
(c) Bill discounting
(d) Bridge loan
(e) Key loan
(f) Bank guarantee

As on date, there are 478 societies on roll as members of this bank, out of which, 237 societies have availed financial assistance from the bank. The term loans are sanctioned for meeting the block capital needs, while cash credits are sanctioned for meeting the working capital requirements.

The following are the rates of interest charged by the Bank for the loans and advances :—

Term loan	*Cash Credit Loan*
(a) Up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs 13.5 per cent	(a) Up to and inclusive of Rs. 5.00 lakhs — 14 per cent
(b) Over and above Rs. 5.00 lakhs — 14.5 per cent	(b) Over Rs. 5.00 lakhs and up to and inclusive of Rs.10.00 lakhs — 14.5 per cent
	(c) Over Rs. 10.00 lakhs weaker section societies up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs — 8 per cent.

Assistance from State Government : The Government of Tamil Nadu have extended the following assistance to this bank as noted against each :–

	(RS. IN LAKHS)
(1) State participation under share Capital structure of the Bank	193.30

(2) By way of guarantee for the repayment of F.D., S.T.D., accepted by the Bank from both the members and public (for principal and interest).	500.00
(3) Guarantee for repayment of clean cash credit accommodation availed from State Bank of India, Anna Salai, Madras-2.	20.00
(4) Ways and means advance	110.00

The bank has repaid Rs. 95.00 lakhs towards the above ways and means advance, leaving an outstanding of Rs. 15.00 lakhs on date.

Source of Funds : The bank requires enormous funds for advancing loans to Industrial Cooperatives both for block capital and working capital needs. The same is raised by the Bank through the following means :–

The amount raised from these sources is in the order of Rs. 1048.10 lakhs as on 30.6.1988.

			(RS. IN LAKHS)
1.	Shares invested by the member societies	..	102.70
2.	Shares taken by the Government	..	193.30
3.	Government loan	..	15.00
4.	Cash credit with Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank	..	190.83
5.	Deposits (including S.B. a/c., Current a/c., R.D. a/c and Cash Certificates, etc.)	..	546.27
	Total	..	1048.10

This bank provides credit facilities only to the Industrial Co- operative Societies, which are under the administrative control of the Director of Industries and Commerce. The bank sanctions various kinds of loans such as clean cash credit, cash credit for working capital, term loan for block capital, bills discount and key loan cash credit to Industrial Co-operative

Societies. In deserving cases, the bank undertakes to open letter of credit in favour of beneficiary societies subject to fulfilment of certain norms.

The deposit position of the Nagercoil branch as on 31 July 1988 was Rs.8,71,864.80. In Kanniyakumari district, 13 Industrial Co-operative Societies had been enrolled as members in the bank, out of which, the bank had financed to nine Industrial Co-operative Societies.

Table – 1
NAGERCOIL BRANCH

* Cash credit loan outstanding as on 31 July 1988

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Society (2)	Sanctioned limited (3)	Date of expiry (4)	Closing balance as on 31 July 1988 (5)
1	Kanniyakumari Small Match Producers' Service ICS	5,50,000 ()	31.03.89	6,96,028.14
		3,50,000 ()	31.12.88	
2	The Nagercoil Umbrella Manu. ICS Ltd.	75,000	31.07.88	34,752.86
	– do – (Special cash credit)	60,000	30.09.88	Nil
3	Nagercoil Metal Casting ICS Ltd.	50,000	31.03.89	49,811.45
4	Kanya Indl. Coop. Printing Press	75,000	31.12.88	70,095.19
5	Kanniyakumari Dt. Central Coir ICS Ltd.	5,00,000	30.09.88	4,96,110.72
6	Engineers' ICS Ltd.	1,50,000	30.06.88	1,46,472.56
7	Ex-Servicemen Coop. Engg. Works Ltd. (Cement)	70,000	31.03.89	57,221.21
	(Spare parts)	30,000	"	8,975.90
8	Muhilankudiyuruppu Coconut Fibre ICS	1,00,000	"	50,705.15
		20,10,000		16,10,173.18
Term loan –				
1	Kanya Indl. Coop. Printing Press			21,261.00
2	Kanniyakumari Indl. Coop. Rubber Factory			5,50,000.00
				5,71,261.00

* Special Officer, Taico Bank, Madras - Report dated 21 September 1988

TABLE – II

THE TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED, NAGERCOIL BRANCH

(Deposit position as on 31 July 1988).

		Rs. P.
(a)	Fixed Deposits -.Individuals	15,250.00
	Fixed deposits - Societies	1,01,825.00
(b)	Short Term Deposits - Individuals	1,000.00
	Short Term Deposits - Societies	1,52,309.50
(c)	Staff Security Deposit - Societies	1,200.00
(d)	Recurring deposit - Individual	45,785.00
(e)	Savings Bank A/c - Individual	29,546.11
	Savings Bank Societies	4,68,288.01
(f)	Current A/c - Others	1,000.00
	Current A/c Societies	26,561.18
(g)	Matured Fixed Deposit - Cash Certificate (Individual)	29,100.00
		8,71,864.80

TABLE – III

THE TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED,

Shares from societies in Kanniyakumari district

		Rs. P.
1.	Kanya Indl. Coop. Printing Press	5,800.00
2.	Kanniyakumari Indl. Coop. Rubber Factory	40,000.00
3.	Kanniyakumari Small Match Producers' Service ICS Limited	60,000.00

4.	Nagercoil Umbrella Makers' ICS Limited	9,300.00
5.	Nagercoil Metal Casting Workers' ICS Ltd.	10,200.00
6.	Kanniyakumari District Central Coir MICS Ltd.	35,000.00
7.	Engineers' ICS Ltd., Konam.	8,800.00
8.	Ex-Servicemen Co-op. Engg. Works Ltd.	15,700.00
9.	Muhilankudiyiruppu Coconut Fibre ICS	10,000.00
10.	K.K. Cement Jolley Products Manu. ICS Ltd.	8,500.00
11.	K.K. District Adi Dravidar Chamber Brick Workers' ICS Ltd.	100.00
12.	K.K. Woodearvers' ICS Ltd.	5,000.00
13.	Nagercoil Bell Metal Workers' ICS Ltd.	2,500.00
		2,10,900.00

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (TIIC) : TIIC was incorporated in 1949 as a company under the companies Act, to help industrial development in the State. It provides financial assistance to small scale and medium scale industrial units, for the creation of fixed assets. Every year, it sanctions about 4,000 to 5,000 loans ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs.60 lakhs amounting to about Rs.100 crores per year. At present, it has about 25,000 assisted units as its clients.

TIIC grants financial assistance for setting up new industries and for the expansion, diversification, renovation and modernisation of existing industries.

The types of industries to which assistance is rendered by the TJIC are tabulated below:—

(1) Food manufacturing industries

(2) Sugar factories and refineries

(3) Paper and Paper products industries including printing and publishing.

(4) Manufacture of textiles

(5) Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

(6) Non-metalic mineral products except products of petroleum and coal.

(7) Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery.

(8) Basic metal industries

(9) Manufacture of metal products

(10) Manufacture of electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies.

(11) Manufacture of transport equipments

(12) Hotel industries

(13) Transport including fishing trawlers

(14) Miscellaneous Industries not elsewhere, classified (stone quarrying, tobacco, furniture and fittings , rubber, motion picture RMP, wood, petrol and beverage)

TIIC has a branch office at Nagercoil functioning from 1979-80. All four taluks viz., Agasthiswaram, Kalkulam, Thovalai and Vilavancode are eligible for central investment subsidy of 10 per cent. In addition to this, Thovalai taluk is eligible for 15 per cent State subsidy also for small scale industries.

So far as Kanniyakumari district is concerned assistance has been rendered to food manufacturing industries, paper and paper products including printing and publishing, manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, hotel industries , Transport including fishing trawlers, and miscellaneous industries such as stone quarrying, furniture and fittings, rubber, RMP, Wood and beverage.

Assistance granted by the TIIC to various types of industries in Kanniyakumari district :[45] During the year 1985-86 , a sum of Rs. 84.00 lakhs was sanctioned to 115 units . Similarly, a sum of Rs.160.00 lakhs was sanctioned to 124 units. Cumulative sanction up to 31March 1987 comes to Rs.767 lakhs to 710 units.

The TIIC has been maintaining a steady improvement in the matter of recoveries year after year. Sick industrial units are considered for rehabilitation, wherever necessary. The Corporation is operating the IDBI's modernisation scheme to sanction financial assistance to industrial units, which seek to replace obsolete equipment with modern ones.

For well established units with good working results, urgent financial needs for purchase of indigenous/ imported equipment, term loans up to 80 per cent of cost of capital goods are sanctioned within 30 days. Assistance under this scheme is also available to set up small hospitals, nursing homes organised as proprietary/ partnerships/ private/public limited companies/ trusts duly backed by expert services of at least one Post Graduate Doctor on a full time basis. Under 'his scheme, term loan assistance upto Rs. 10 lakhs for acquiring fixed assets and also for working capital purposes to very small units is also sanctioned.

The Branch Manager is empowered to sanction loan to the small and medium scale units to the extent of Rs.3 lakhs whereas the Regional Manager has power to sanction up to Rs.7.50 lakhs , as loan to such units, while the sanction limit of the C.M.D at Madras is Rs.12.50 lakhs. The Branch Manager is empowered to disburse the loan to the extent of Rs.12.50 lakhs, after it is only sanctioned by the C.M.D. or the Regional Manager, as the case may be.

Details of cash loan sanctioned and disbursed by the TIIC in Kanniyakumari district from 1985-86 to 1987-88 are given below :-[46]

(AMOUNT RS. IN LAKHS)

Year	*Loan Sanctioned*				*Loan Disbursed*	
	Small Scale Units		*Others*		*Small Scale Units*	*Others*
	Nos.	*Amount.*	*Nos.*	*Amount*	*Amount*	*Amount*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
1985-86	115	83.75	–	–	95.14	–
1986-87	124	159.92	–	–	119.82	–
1987-88	242	445.84	2	106.00	138.37	–

Insurance Companies : The progress of insurance business in any developing country like ours is greatly linked with the industrialisation and overall progress of the country. As India continues to progress in all spheres, so does insurance business.

The Government of India brought the General Insurance business under its fold through a holding company, viz., the General Insurance Corporation of India. The avowed objectives of nationalising this company were to spread the importance of Insurance throughout the country and to make insurance meaningful to the common man. After reorganisation, the industry set itself to work towards the achievement of these twin objectives. In public interest, the industry started opening of new Divisional and Branch Offices, all over the country, in a phased programme.[47]

Branches of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in Kanniyakumari District : There are two branch offices of the LIC, one at Nagercoil and another at Kuzhithurai.[48] The Nagercoil branch is functioning from 1 September 1956 which has jurisdiction over Agasthiswaram and Thovalai Taluks. The Kuzhithurai branch, which covers the Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks, functioning from 12 September 1980.

The performance of LIC is as follows : [49]

Performance of LIC from 1965-66 to 1969-70 : –

(1)	1965-66 (2)	1966-67 (3)	1967-68 (4)	1968-69 (5)	1969-70 (6)
1. No. of Policies	4165	3627	2690	3450	3458
2. Sum assured (RS. LAKHS)	147.80	138.08	121.81	140.72	140.43
3. Total Premium collected (RS. LAKHS)	23.15	21.36	21.85	22.30	22.70

Volume of business :– (RS. IN CRORES)

Year (1)	*Nagercoil Branch Office* (2)	*Kuzhithurai Branch Office* (3)
1980-81	2.08	2.94
1981-82	2.52	3.38

(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*
1982-83	2.79	3.68
1983-84	3.46	5.28
1984-85	4.85	5.38
1985-86	6.50	6.45
1986-87	8.07	8.60
1987-88	9.70	10.64

Performance of New India Assurance Company Limited at Nagercoil :[50] New India Assurance Company Limited has one branch office at Nagercoil. The volume of business during 1987 was as follows:-

	(RUPEES)
Fire	2,89,000
Cargo	2,41,000
Hull	56,000
Motor	7,64,000

Miscellaneous –

	(RUPEES)
T.B.	2,17,000
N.T.B.	3,31,000
Total	16,81,000

Branches of United India Insurance Company Limited[51] **:** There are two branch offices of the United India Insurance Company Limited in Kanniyakumari district, one at Nagercoil opened on 4 April 1977 and the other at Marthandam functioning from 1 January 1986. A sum of Rs. 51.00 lakhs have been underwritten as premium from various types of insurance such as fire, motor, cargo and other Rural Insurance Schemes. A major thrust in the district is given for the benefit of rural population covering the cattle and livestock insurance. In this regard, the following steps have been taken by the United India Insurance Company :

(a) Conducting cattle health survey camps, involving banks and other rural development agencies.

(b) Distribution of posters and pamphlets in local languages describing the advantages of insurance.

(c) Screening films and slides in rural areas to generate popular enthusiasm and awareness for the insurance covers.

(d) Public meetings in the rural areas and seminars with local leardership participation.

(e) Organising cattle shows/exhibition at which prizes are awarded for the best maintained cattle.

Besides the cattle and livestock insurance, the following schemes for the benefits of weaker sections are also introduced :-

(1) Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor families.

(2) Composite package Industries for beneficiaries of IRDP, NREP, etc. in respect of dwelling premises and other belongings.

(3) Group Personal accident covers for fishermen, toddy tappers, factory workers, etc.

(4) Cover for artisans, village, cottage and small scale industries including bio-gas plants.

(5) Package policy for handloom weavers

(6) Janata and Gramin Personal Accident

(7) Agricultural pumpsets

(8) Failure of wells

(9) Pedal cycle rickshaws

(10) Hut Insurance in rural areas

(11) Bullock cart

National Insurance Company and Oriental Insurance Company[52] : The National Insurance Company Limited and the Oriental Insurance Company Limited have one branch office each at Nagercoil. The branch

Office of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited has been functioning from 9 July 1984.

Post Office Savings Bank : Post Office Savings Bank system was first started in Kanniyakumari in the year 1882, when the Anchal system was in vogue in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State.[53] Subsequently, the Anchal System was merged with the All India Postal System in 1950.

Till 1970, there were only 55 post offices in the district, which had saving bank facilities.[54] They held a deposit of Rs. 82.68 lakhs in 35,865 accounts.

Number of Post Offices in Kanniyakumari District transacting Savings Business from 1980 to 1988 (*Yearwise*) :–[55]

1980	:	235
1981	:	236
1982	:	237
1983	:	239
1984		
1985		
1986	:	243
1987		
1988		

No. of Accounts and deposit mobilised as on 30 September 1988 is as follows:–

Name of the Account (1)	*Numbers (2)*	*Amount (3)* (IN RUPEES)
1. SB	70402	2,73,48,381.78
2. RD	117725	5,71,96,454.10
3. CTD	3420	38,93,776.95
4. TD	15771	1,97,63,900.00

(1)		(2)	(3)
5.	CDS	25	1,907.00
6.	MIS	285	45,97,000.00
7.	NSAC	6	2,246.00
8.	NSS	39	3,13,400.00
9.	PPF	26	1,34,475.00

Savings Schemes run by the Post Office Savings Bank :–

(1) Post Office Savings Accounts

(2) Post Office Recurring Deposit

(3) Post Office Time Deposit

(4) Public Provident Fund Scheme

(5) Monthly Income Scheme

(6) National Savings Scheme.

Savings Certificate :–

(1) 7 year NSC III Issue

(2) 6 year NSC VI Issue

(3) 6 year NSC VII Issue

(4) 10 year Social Security Certificates

(5) Indira Vikas Patras

(6) Kisan Vikas Patras.

The Chit Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu).

The Chit fund is governed by the Chit Funds Act 1982 (Central Act No. 40 of 1982). This Act has been implemented with a view to regulate the Chit Funds and for matters connected therewith.

SCOPE : As per the Act. 'Chit' means a transaction whether called chit, chit fund, chitty, kury or by any other name or under which a person enters into an agreement with a specified number of persons that every one of them shall subscribe a certain amount of money (or a certain quantity of grain instead) by way of periodical instalments over a definite period and that each such subscriber shall, in his turn as determined by lot or by auction or by tender or in such other manner as may be specified in the Chit agreement, be entitled to the prize amount. This Act is enforced by the Director of Chits, Madras.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHIT CORPORATION : Chit transaction is an old fashioned method of savings in order to inculcate the habit of thrift in the minds of general public. This system still continues in the country. One can notice many private companies are conducting the business of Chits in urban centres, but their motive is to earn huge profit without fixing any ceiling for the discount offered, at the time of auction.

Realising the need to cultivate the habit of savings among people, and at the same time, to fix a reasonable ceiling for the discount offered during auction, in the interest of public, the Government of Tamil Nadu established a Chit Corporation in 1984, with the name of style "The Chit Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited" with headquarters at Madras. This is an undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government have invested Rs. 5.92 lakhs as equity share capital. Presently there are three branches at Madras, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore. The Headquarters of the Corporation is located in Madras under the control of a Managing Director in the cadre of District Revenue Officer. He has been provided with necessary complementary staff to look after the affairs of the Corporation. Any Citizen of India can subscribe for the Chit Groups.

1. Chit Groups :- The following Chit Groups are conducted by the Chit Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited : —

Sl.No. (1)	*Instalment amount* RS. *(2)*	*No. of months* RS. *(3)*	*Chit amount* RS. *(4)*
1.	1000	50	50,000
2.	1000	30	30,000
3.	1250	20	25,000
4.	1000	20	20,000

(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
5.	500	30	15,000
6.	500	20	10,000
7.	250	40	10,000
8.	200	30	6,000
9.	250	20	5,000
10.	125	40	5,000
11.	100	30	3,000
12.	50	40	2,000

2. **Payment of Subscription :–** The subscription for the first instalment has to be paid along with the application for admission to Chit groups. The subscriptions can be paid in Cash. It can be paid by cheques drawn on in-station banks or by demand draft or by Money Order by outstation subscribers.

3. Conduct of Auction :– As provided for in the Chit Funds Act, the Chit amount of the first instalment will be appropriated by the Corporation without auction. As soon as a chit group is fully subscribed, an intimation card indicating details of amount to be paid for the second instalment, last date fixed for payment, date and time of auction will be sent by post to all subscribers. The intimation card for the subsequent instalments will, in addition, carry the name of the prized subscriber of the previous instalment, his prized ticket number and the prize amount.

The subscribers are eligible for dividend from second instalment onwards. The dividend is arrived at by dividing equally among all subscribers the discount foregone by the prized subscribers the discount foregone by the commission due for the Corporation.

The date and time for auction once fixed will not be altered. Only those non-prized subscribers who have paid subscription up to date will be eligible for taking part in auction. The discount offered shall not however exceed 30 per cent of the Chit amount. One can take part in the auction in person or by tender or by proxy. If two or more persons offer to forego the same amount of discount, then the successfull bidder will be decided by drawing lot. For conducting auction at least two ticket holders should be present.

4. Special Features of the Chit Corporation: –

1. It has cent per cent security coverage, since it is a Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking.

2. No fee is prescribed for admission to Chit group.

3. No fee need be paid for writing security documents also.

4. Payment of prize amount is made in a day or two after acceptance of security. Thus, there is no delay whatsoever in the payment of prize amount.

5. Another important feature is that there is no need for the employees of State Government or *Quasi* Government to intimate their superiors or get their permission to enrole as subscribers.

5. Security :– The successful bidder before getting the prize amount should furnish sufficient security to the corporation for the due payment of future subscription.

Achievement : The achievement of this Corporation from 1984-85 tc October 1988 is furnished below:-

Year (1)	*No. of Chit groups* (2)	*No. of Subscribers* (3)	*Chit value* (4)
			(RS.IN LAKHS)
1984-85	79	2260	5.32
1985-86	135	4230	10.30
1986-87	199	6550	17.62
1987-88	258	8470	24.74
1988-89 (up to 31 October 1988)	331	10870	32.43

Wide publicity has been given in Kanniyakumari district also, about the scope and special features of this scheme. A branch at Kanniyakumari has been proposed to be opened in 2 or 3 years.

Currency and Coinage : Around the year 1790, gold and silver coins and subsidiary copper coins were in circulation in the district as a part of the general system of Coinage of Travancore State. There were also other coins known as 'Kaliyan Panam' 'Rasi Panam' and 'Katcha Rupee' in vogue during the period. Most of these coins were issued from the royal Mint at Padmanabhapuram.

By 1869, the Indian Rupee standardised at 180 grams of Silver, was generally accepted all over the district and it was exchanged with the local currency at the rate of $28\frac{1}{2}$ Chuckrams per Indian Standard rupee.

The old currency in the district consisted of the denominations known as the Sirkar Rupee, the Panam, the Chuckram and Cash. The Sirkar Rupee of which there was no coin, was computed at 28 Chuckrams or half chuckram less than the British Indian Rupee. But the Sircar half rupee, quarter rupee and panam, (all made up of silver) were in circulation. The currency which was in vogue in the district was as follows:–

16 Kasu	..	1 Chuckram
4 Chuckrams	..	1 Panam (Silver)
14 Chuckrams	..	1 Chitra (Silver)
2 Chitras or 7 Panams or 28 Chuckrams	..	1 Travancore Rupee or Sircar Rupee

Weights and Measures : Standardisation of weights and measures has been universally recognised as are of the primary functions of Government. In ancient India, the State/exercised control over weights and measures; the Mohenjo-daro city authorities had Inspectors to verify traders weights against standard weights.[56] During British rule, attempts to improve matters did not bear fruit, though as early as 1870 a Bill was passed making the metric system uniformly applicable all over the country. Even later laws were enacted to institute uniform weights and measures throughout the country (in terms of seer and pound), but they were not enforced with determination and vigour.

The metric system is the dominant system of weights and measures in the world today. The main advantage of the metric system is that, being a decimal system , it facilitates easy accounting.

The Indian coinage (Amendment) Act, 1955, divided the rupee into 100 units. The anna and pice coins in circulation continued to be legal tender, but their values were to be expressed in the new units. Under the Act, which was brought into force on 1 April 1957, the new unit of currency was named 'naya paisa'.

Coins would be of the denominations one rupee (100NP), half rupee (50 NP) quarter rupee (25 NP) , 10 NP, 5 NP, 2 NP, 1 NP. The old rupee coin had a weight of one tola and it served a subsidiary purpose as a weight for weighing gold and silver. The new rupee coin was given a weight of 10 grams. Other coins have the following weights :-

50 NP	:	5 grams
25 NP	:	2.5 grams
10 NP	:	5 grams
5 NP	:	4 grams
2 NP	:	3 grams
1 NP	:	1.5 grams

Public reaction to the new coinage was favourable and people soon got used to decimal coins. But, the existence of the new and the old coins side by side created some initial difficulty. Making a payment by a mixture of new and old coins was a worrisome affair, even to educated people. People were soon wishing for the old coins to go out of circulation altogether. The speed with which they could be replaced depended, however, on the capacity of the Mints. By 1 January 1959, Government was able to withdraw all nickel- brass two-anna coins, all half-anna coins and all fie coins. A year later, i.e. 1 January 1960, one anna and half-anna coins of nickal-brass were withdrawn. On 1 October 1960, all cupronickel coins of two-anna and half-anna were withdrawn. The values of anna and pice coins withdrawn and NP coins put into circulation till June 1961 are as follows[57] :-

Period (1)	Value of anna & pice coins withdrawn (2)	Value of Decimal coins put into circulation. (3)
	(MILLION RUPEES)	(MILLION RUPEES)
1957-58	24.3	27.6
1958-59	26.0	22.4
1959-60	23.7	37.7
1960-61	41.4	54.5
April - June 1961	12.3	23.8

The number of new coins of the various denominations put into circulation till 30 June 1961 was:-

		(MILLIONS)
50 NP	..	22.8
25 NP	..	185.4
10 NP	..	610.8
5 NP	..	690.5
2 NP	..	963.3
1 NP	..	918.5
		4391.3

The number of decimal coins released is nearly 4,391 million; this gives an idea of the effort put in by the Mints. The number of anna and pice coins in circulation on 30 June 1961 was 4,480 million, distributed as follows:-

		(MILLION)
Pice	:	2,294
One anna coins	:	1,038
Quarter rupee coins	:	763
1/2 rupee coins	:	385
		4,480

It was in 1958 when the State Government passed the Madras Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act that the final decision was taken to implement metric reform in this State. This decision followed the standard Weights and Measures Act of 1956 passed by Parliament[58]

The 1958 Act provides for enforcement of standard weights and measures in the State based on the metric system. It provides for marks of weights or measures on scaled containers showing the net weight or measures of the contents. It prohibits manufacture, repairs and dealing in weights and measures without obtaining a licence from the State Government.

To start with, the then Madras Government introduced the metric system of weights in four districts viz., Madras, Chengalpattu, South Arcot and North Arcot with effect from 1 October 1958 with a traditional period of the two years, during which, both the old and the new weights were to continue side by side. The use of metric weights was made compulsory in the above four districts with effect from 1 October 1960. Metric weights have also been introduced in the remaining districts of the State from 1 April 1960, with a transitional period of two years and became compulsory with effect from 1 April 1962.

Metric capacity measures have also been introduced in the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot with effect from 1 April 1961, and in Salem, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram with effect from 1 October 1961, with a transitional period of one year for making them compulsory. Capacity measures in the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot thus became compulsory from 1 April 1962. The use of capacity measures became compulsory in the whole of State of Tamil Nadu by Ist April 1963 in two more stages i.e., by 1 October 1962 and 1 April 1963[59].

Linear measures have also been introduced in the whole of the erstwhile Madras State with effect from 1 October 1961 and became compulsory on 1 October 1962.

Basic Metric Units[60]

(a) Length —

10mm	:	1 cm.
10 cm	:	1 dm
10 dm	:	1m.
10m	:	1dem.
10 dem	:	1 hm.
10 hm	:	1 km.
1853 m	:	1 nautical mile.

(b) Area —

100 mm^2	:	1 cm^2
100 cm^2	:	1 dm^2
100 dm^2	:	1 m^2
100 m^2	:	1 are or 1 dem^2
100 ares	:	1 hectare or 1hm^2
100 hm^2	:	1 km^2

(c) Volume and Capacity —

1000 mm^3	:	1cm^3
1000 cm^3	:	1dm^3
1000 dm^3	:	1 m^3
10 milli litres	:	1 centi litre
10 centi litres	:	1 deci litre
10 deci litres	:	1 litre
10 litre	:	1 deka litre
10 deka litres	:	1 hecto litre
10 hecto litres	:	1 kilo litre

(d) Weight —

10 milligrams	:	1 centigram
10 centigrams	:	1 decigram
10 decigrams	:	1 gram
10 grams	:	1 deka gram
10 dekagrams	:	1 hectogram
10 hectograms	:	1 kilogram
100 kilograms	:	1 quintal
10 quintals	:	1 tonne

Principal conversion factors

(a) Length -

1 inch	:	0.0254 m. (exact).
1 foot	:	0.3048 m. (exact).
1 yard	:	0.9144 m. (exact).
1 mile	:	1.609344 m. (exact).
1 chain (66 feet)	:	20.1168 m. (exact)

(b) Area —

1 Sq. inch	:	6.4516 sq.cm
1 sq.foot	:	9.2903 sq.cm.
1 acre	:	4.046.86 sq.m.
1 sq.mile	:	2.58999 sq.km.

(c) Volume and Capacity —

1 gallon (Imp.)	:	4.54596 l.
1 gallon (U.S.)	:	3.78533 l.

(d) Weights —

1 ounce	:	28. 3495 g
1 pound	:	453.5924 g
1 ton	:	1.01605 metric tonnes or 1, 016.05 kg.

Madras Weight :[61]

3	tolas	=	1 palam
8	palam	=	1 seer
5	seers	=	1 viss
8	visses	=	1 maund
20	maunds	=	1 candy

A viss is 3.0857 lb. A Madras maund is thus nearly 25 lb. avoirdupois (24.68). and a candy is generally taken at 500 lb. 1 lb. = 38.88 tolas.

The table used by European merchants in Madras is slightly different from the above and is an follows:-

1	palam	=	1 1/4 OZ. avoirdupois.
40	palams	=	1 viss = $3\frac{1}{8}$ lb.
8	visses	=	1 maund
20	maunds	=	1 candy or baram = 500 lb.

Madras Measures of capacity:— These are extremely variable and only a few of the most widely known are given.

8 ollocks = 1 Madras measure (M.M.) Pucca or Padi.

8 Madras measures = 1 marakkal.

1 marakkal = 1/2 cub. foot = 500 fluid OZ.

The type of Madras measure is 108 inches cubic capacity, contains 62.5 fluid ounces and is usually 4.5 inches in diameter and 6.75 inches deep. In Madras and Saidapet it is struck ; else where it is heaped. The seer when used as a measure is about 50 tolas; but varies with the commodity that is being used. Madras weight and Madras measures of capacity have however been replaced after the introduction of metric system in 1957.

METRIC MEASURES

Conversion Tables

TABLE – I

Acres to Hectares
(0.1 to 100 acres)

Acres (1)	*Hectares* (2)	*Acres* (1)	*Hectares* (2)
0.1	0.040	4	1.62
0.2	0.081	5	2.02
0.3	0.121	6	2.43
0.4	0.162	7	2.83
0.5	0.202	8	3.24
0.6	0.243	9	3.64
0.7	0.283	10	4.05
0.8	0.324	11	4.45
0.9	0.364	12	4.86
1	0.40	13	5.26
2	0.81	14	5.67
3	1.21	15	6.07

Acres (1)	*Hectares (2)*	*Acres (1)*	*Hectares (2)*
16	6.47	43	17.40
17	6.88	44	17.81
18	7.28	45	18.21
19	7.69	46	18.62
20	8.09	47	19.02
21	8.50	48	19.42
22	8.90	49	19.83
23	9.31	50	20.23
24	9.71	51	20.64
25	10.12	52	21.04
26	10.52	53	21.45
27	10.93	54	21.85
28	11.33	55	22.26
29	11.74	56	22.66
30	12.14	57	23.07
31	12.55	58	23.47
32	12.95	59	23.88
33	13.35	60	24.28
34	13.76	61	24.69
35	14.46	62	25.09
36	14.57	63	25.50
37	14.97	64	25.90
38	15.38	65	26.30
39	15.78	66	26.71
40	16.19	67	27.11
41	16.59	68	27.52
42	17.00	69	27.92

Acres *(1)*	*Hectares* *(2)*	*Acres* *(1)*	*Hectares* *(2)*
70	28.33	86	34.80
71	28.73	87	35.21
72	29.14	88	35.61
73	29.54	89	36.02
74	29.95	90	36.42
75	30.35	91	36.83
76	30.76	92	37.23
77	31.16	93	37.64
78	31.57	94	38.04
79	31.97	95	38.45
80	32.37	96	38.85
81	32.78	97	39.25
82	33.18	98	39.66
83	33.59	99	40.06
84	33.99	100	40.47
85	34.40		

TABLE – 2

(Acres to Hectares)

(200 to 1000 acres)

Acres *(1)*		*Hectares* *(2)*
200	..	80.94
300	..	121.41
400	..	161.87
500	..	202.34

(1)		(2)
600	..	242.81
700	..	283.28
800	..	323.75
900	..	364.22
1000	..	404.69

TABLE – 3

(Acres to Hectares)

(2000 to 10000 acres)

Acres		*Hectares*
2000	..	809.37
3000	..	1214.06
4000	..	1618.74
5000	..	2023.43
6000	..	2428.11
7000	..	2832.80
8000	..	3237.49
9000	..	3642.49
10000	..	4046.86

TABLE – 4

(Ounces to Grams)

(1 to 15 Ounces)

Ounces (1)	*Grams* (2)
1	28
2	57
3	85

(1)	(2)
4	113
5	142
6	170
7	198
8	227
9	255
10	283
11	312
12	340
13	369
14	397
15	425

TABLE – 5

(Pounds to Kilograms)

(1 to 100 Pounds)

Pounds (1)	*Kilograms (2)*	*Pounds (1)*	*Kilograms (2)*
1	0.45	13	5.90
2	0.91	14	6.35
3	1.36	15	6.80
4	1.81	16	7.26
5	2.27	17	7.71
6	2.72	18	8.16
7	3.18	19	8.62
8	3.63	20	9.07
9	4.08	21	9.53
10	4.54	22	9.98
11	4.99	23	10.43
12	5.44	24	10.89

(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
25	11.34	52	23.59
26	11.79	53	24.04
27	12.25	54	24.49
28	12.70	55	24.95
29	13.15	56	25.40
30	13.61	57	25.85
31	14.06	58	26.31
32	14.52	59	26.76
33	14.97	60	27.22
34	15.42	61	27.67
35	15.88	62	28.12
36	16.33	63	28.58
37	16.78	64	29.03
38	17.24	65	29.48
39	17.69	66	29.94
40	18.14	67	30.39
41	18.60	68	30.84
42	19.05	69	31.30
43	19.50	70	31.75
44	19.96	71	32.21
45	20.41	72	32.66
46	20.87	73	33.11
47	21.32	74	33.57
48	21.77	75	34.02
49	22.23	76	34.47
50	22.68	77	34.93
51	23.13	78	35.38

(1)	*(2)*	*(1)*	*(2)*
79	35.83	90	40.82
80	36.29	91	41.28
81	36.74	92	41.73
82	37.19	93	42.18
83	37.65	94	42.64
84	38.10	95	43.09
85	38.56	96	43.54
86	39.01	97	44.00
87	39.46	98	44.45
88	39.92	99	44.91
89	40.37	100	45.36

TABLE – 6

(Pounds to Kilograms)
(200 Pounds to 1000 Pounds)

Pounds *(1)*	*Kilograms* *(2)*
200	90.72
300	136.08
400	181.44
500	226.80
600	272.16
700	317.52
800	362.81
900	408.23

(1)	(2)
1000	453.59

TABLE – 7[62]

(Pounds to Kilograms)
(2000 Pounds to 10000 Pounds)

Pounds (1)	*Kilograms* (2)
2000	907.18
3000	1360.78
4000	1834.37
5000	2267.96
6000	2721.55
7000	3175.15
8000	3628.74
9000	4082.33
10000	4535.92

The following secondary units have been notified by Government :–

Length —

Micren	(millionth of a metre)
Millimetre	(thousandth part of a metre)
Centimetre	(hundredth part of metre)
Kilometre	(1000 metres)

Weight —

Milligrams	(millionth part of a kilogram)
Gram	(thousandth part of a kilogram)
Quintal	(100 kilograms)

Capacity —

Millilitre	(thousandth part of a litre)
Kilolitre	(1000 litres)

PART II

TRADE

Trade is a complex, worldwide business that has a direct bearing on the life of every citizen and country in general. So long as trade functions smoothly, it does mankind a very great services. It brings food,clothing, other necessaries and service from producer to the consumer. It makes possible for industries to concentrate upon one or a few products. This specialisation increases production and raises the standard, of living throughout the world. Business in local communities is good example of the trade that is carried on daily, throughout the world.[63]

From time immemorial, the region which now forms Kanniyakumari district has been an important trading area. Kottar now a part of Nagercoil Muncipality was a commercial centre of fame in days of yore Ptolemy's Geography and Pliny's Travels clearly indicate that it was one of the most important cities during the beginning of the Christian era.[64] Dr. Caldwell in his "Comparative Grammar of Dravidian Languages states" this is the name of a place in the country of Ays which is called 'Kottia-ra Metropolis with considerable trade "by Ptolemy and 'Kottara' by Pliny. Undoubtedly, the town referred to is Kottam or as it is ordinarily spelt by the Europeans, Kottar, the principal town in South Travancore and now as in the time of the Greeks distinguished for its Commerce".

There were many bazaars selling various goods. The main commodities of trade were pepper, ivory, teak, sandal wood, rosewood and fruits. Even now, the bazaar of Kottar is famous and it is locally called "Pandakasaalai". Sambandar aptly describes the city as "Thozhil malgu Kottar" in his verses.[65] It is a busy paddy milling centre.[66] Mention has been, made that Kanniyakumari was once a harbour.[67] Similarly, Manakudi and Rajakkamangalam were also ports and trade took place here.[68]

MUTTAM : It is of interest to know the fact that several foreign coins were found at Muttam which was once a leading port and famous centre of foreign trade[69]

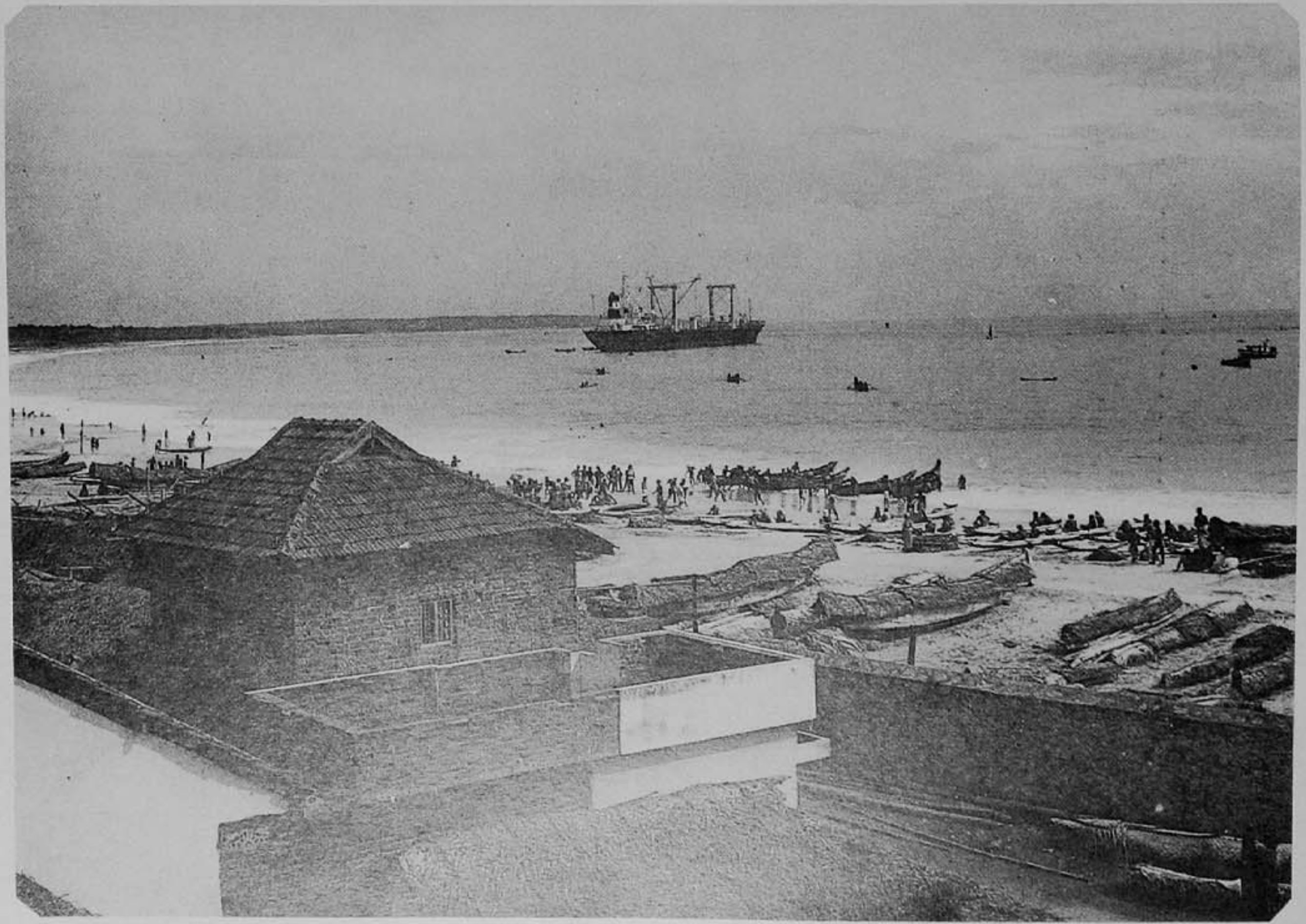
COLACHEL : This sea-coast town is situated about 22 km. west of Nagercoil.[70] It is an ancient one, claimed to be the only natural port in the

West Coast, in which ships can come very near to the shore. It was a port of call for European merchants during the 16-18th centuries. The Dutch and the English had trading settlements here. A variety of commodities is exported from here, prominent among them being palmyrah and its fibre, mineral sands, fish and salt. Foreign streamers used to lead palmyrah fibre and mineral sands.

Fish is exported to Sri Lanka and plantains, vegetables, coconut, timber, pepper and rubber are sent to Kerala and other parts of Tamil Nadu. Coir products, cashew kernels and brushes are exported to foreign countries.[71]

TRADE CENTRES

Regulated Market : There are six regulated markets in the district.[72] They are located at Eathamozhy, Vadasery, Monday Market, Thoḍuvatty, Kaliakkavilai and Kulasekharam. Coconut, tamarind, tapioca, jaggery and paddy are the main commodities,which are brought to the markets.



A view of Colachel port with steamers loading ilmenite

Location of Regulated Markets and other details[73]

Location of Regulated Markets	*Products transacted*		*Coconuts* (IN LAKHS) *Other Crops* (IN METRIC TONNES) *Turn Over*						
1 Eathamozhy	1. Coconut	(in lakhs)	2.54	2.97	17.31	2.59	13.97	11.18	56.95
2 Vadasery	2. Cashewnut	(in metric tonne)	–	–	–	–	–	–	177.32
3 Kaliakkavilai	3. Tamarind	(in metric tonne)	2.30	7.89	0.47	2.80	4.11	21.81	34.78
4 Monday Market	4. Jaggery	(")	3.60	7.18	23.31	12.85	14.76	21.10	14.09
5 Thoduvatty	5. Tapioca	(")	503.52	352.91	462.09	485.66	681.66	178.37	300.25
6 Kulasekharam	6. Paddy	(")	132.99	154.49	20.79	259.71	171.14	274.93	456.40
	7. Groundnut	(")	1.77	1.03	–	–	–	–	0.56
	8. Rubber	(")	–	–	115.67	43.07	101.26	211.69	195.42
	(in all the regulated markets)								

Secretary, Kanniyakumari Market Committee, Nagercoil, Reports dated 23 July 1986 and 12 August 1986.

Quantum of Goods transacted and their value[74]

	Item (1)	*Quantity* (2)	*Approximate value* (RS. IN CRORES) (3)
1.	Coconut	10,000,000 nos.	10.00
2.	Cashewnut	3,150 m.t.	1.26
3.	Tapioca	100,000 m.t.	2.50
4.	Palm Jaggery	2,925 m.t.	0.50
5.	Tamarind	1,575 m.t.	0.48
6.	Paddy	97,500 m.t.	9.75
7.	Groundnut	1,520 m.t.	0.31
8.	Rubber	7,700 m.t.	7.7

Chamber of Commerce:– The Chamber of Commerce strains every nerve to promote and safeguard the interests of its members in their trading activities. Its service is not only confined to individual business, but to business as a whole by speaking for all sections of the community.

The Nellai-Kumari chamber of Commerce and the Tirunelveli District Chamber jointly involve themselves in the business activities in respect of Kanniyakumari district.[75]

Shandies :[76]

Name of place (1)	*Periodicity of shandy* (2)	*Major/minor shandy* (3)
1. Vadasery 2. Kanakamulam	daily shandy	major shandies
3. Monday Market	weekly	major shandy
4. Thuckalay 5. Friday Market	weekly	minor shandies

6. Karungal 7. Thoduvatty 8. Kaliakkavilai 9. Kulasekharam 10. Athoor	biweekly	major shandies
11. Kannumamoodu 12. Puthukadai 13. Thaliyaruthan 14. Mylaudy 15. Arumanai 16. Kanchampuram 17. Punnamoothukadai	Biweekly	minor shandies

On an average, there are 2 to 9 small markets in each panchayat and these deal mainly with agricultural produces.

The main marketing centres are Nagercoil, Marthandam, Karingal, Monday Market and Kulasekharam. Important commodities traded are coconut, copra, cashewnut, tamarind, palm jaggery and tapioca. About Rs.4.36 crores worth products were imported by the district in 1970-71. The exports for the same year amounted to about Rs.3.95 crores.

The following table elucidates the major imports for the year 1970-71 :–[77]

Commodities *(1)*	*Quantity* *(2)*		*Value* *(3)*
	(TONNES)		(RS. IN THOUSANDS)
(a) Paddy	23,389	..	1637
(b) Pulses	6,912	..	13043
(c) Sugarcane	3,200	..	5760
(d) Plantain	8,500	..	4500
(e) Cashewnuts	13,290	..	14770
(f) Grocery (chillies & corriander)	920	..	3927
		Total	43637

Major exports of commodities are as follows:–

	Commodities (1)	*Quantity (2)*		*Values (3)*
		(TONNES)		(RS. IN THOUSANDS)
1.	Paddy	4080		3957
2.	Palmgur	8502		7653
3.	Tamarind	622		653
4.	Salt	37825		1513
5.	Banana	12200		7320
6.	Vegetables	1200		480
7.	Coconut	6147700	(numbers)	3074
8.	Cashewnuts	1680		14822
			Total	39472

Fairs and festivals : Fairs and festivals in the district attract large gathering within the district and also from the neighbouring districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and on these occasions, trade is carried on more enthusiastically and in larger volume than in ordinary days. The Car festival in Suchindram temple in Agasthiswaram taluk, which takes place every year in the month of December is celebrated in a grand scale. The Kodai festival in the Mandaikkadu temple in the Kalkulam taluk is another important festival. The Chandanakudam festival in the mosques at Thuckalai is an important festival for muslims.

There is also an annual festival conducted in the St.Xavier's Church at Kottar every December. Brisk trade especially of local products, takes place during festive occasions.

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7. A Cess calculated at a percentage of business profit.
8. A Cess calculated at a percentage of the business capital.
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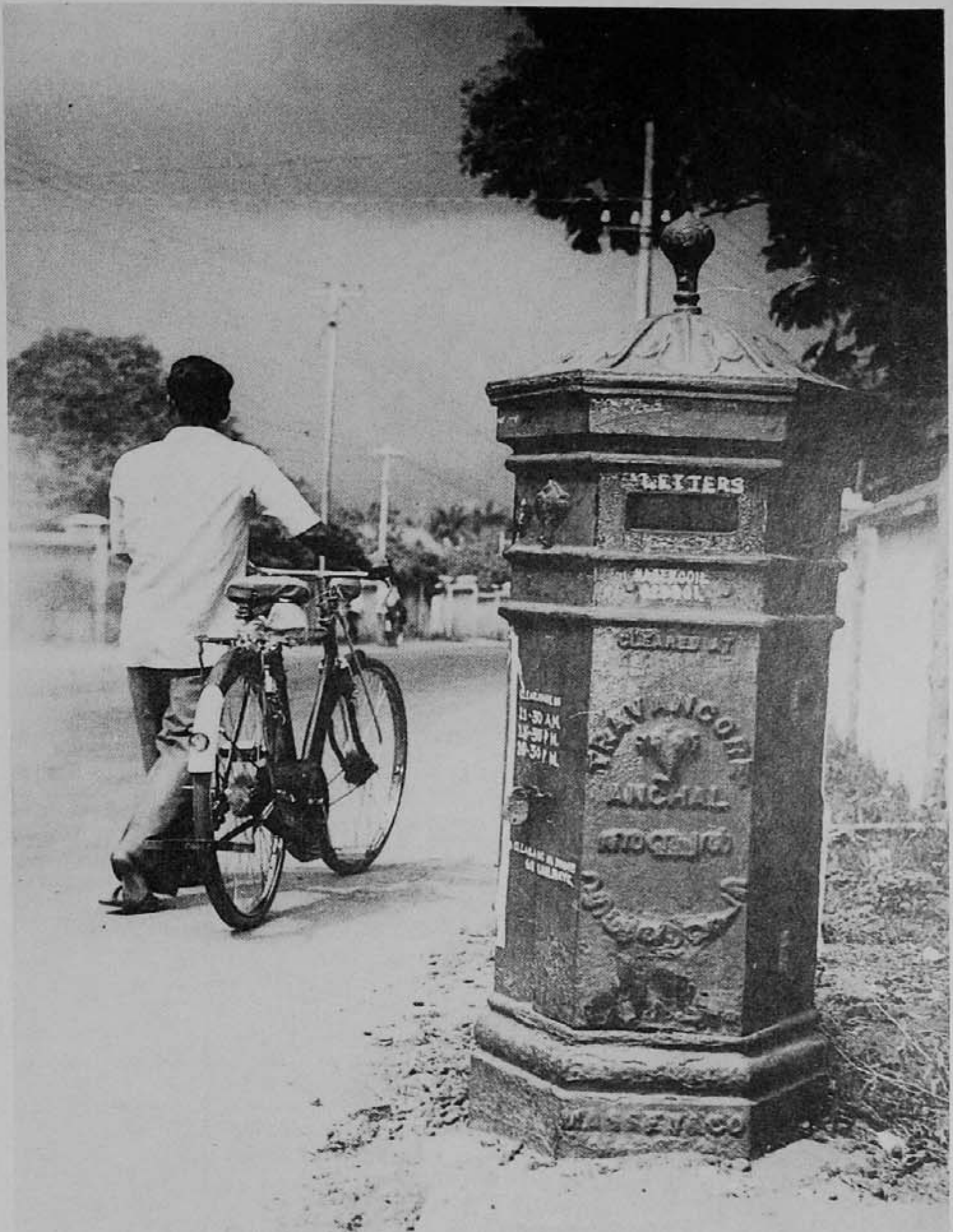

The Post Box - Opposite to Collector's Office -
'Anchal Postal System' - Nagercoil

4

CHAPTER – 7

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication as a process of exchange of coherent messages is becoming a more and more necessary element to the society. The emergence and development of means of communication is one of the most fascinating pages in the histroy of mankind. The ways and means of communication were developed gradually as people struggled to meet their needs and to improve their ways of living. In the early periods all messages were sent through messengers who went on horse back and by foot. Across the sea, communication was possible by vessels touching various ports. It was so till renaissance set in.

Confining to the area which represents the present Kanniyakumari district, there had been a postal system 'Anchal' which was much like the present departmental postal system. Raja Rama Varma during his reign over the Travancore and Cochin in 1784 reorganised this 'Anchal' system on a scientific basis.

The departmental postal system was introduced by about the 19th century and the opening of a post office at Nagercoil in 1865 marked the beginning of the postal service in Kanniyakumari district. However, the 'Anchal' system continued which the people encouraged more due to the rates being comparatively less than charged by the postal system which ultimately led to the competition between the two systems.

About 1882 at the instance of the Postmaster General, Madras, a Postal Treaty appeared to have been concluded between Travancore and the British Government tentatively for one year with a view to enable the 'Anchal' system reciprocate to the Imperial Post.[1]

The Postal department besides the agency of postal communication offers a variety of non-postal services also (viz.,) telephone, telegraph and telex service. As at present, they function as separate departments. The post office plays a vital role in the economy of the people also, and offer postal savings and postal life insurance schemes etc.

The jurisdiction of the Kanniyakumari postal division is much the same as the jurisdiction of the District Revenue Unit. There are four postal sub-divisions in Kanniyakumari Division and the year in which they were established is noted in brackets. They are Nagercoil East (1951), Thuckalay (1967), Kuzhithurai (1976) and Nagercoil West (1981) in the Division as in 1987. As regards the number of post offices, there are two head post offices one at Nagercoil and the other at Thuckalay, . 75 Sub-post offices 30 extra departmental offices and 136 extra-departmental branch offices.[2]

Telegraphs and Telephones : With the advent of electricity and invention of sophisticated gadgets in the field of communication speed, matching, lighting, etc. came to be imbibed in the system. In this century there has been a remarkable progress in the field of electronics with the result the radio and presently the TV and the Satellites have brought about a revolution in the system of Communications which in fact has made the world shrink. Once the interior of the U.S.S.R. was km. away from our backyard but today it is only a fraction of a second away by TV which means that we are closely joined to the people of the world.

The impact of the advancement made in this field in the district is discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

The present Kanniyakumari district area till 1956 was served by the Telegraphs Engineering Division of Trivandrum. There were two telephone exchanges, one at Nagercoil and the other at Kuzhithurai and two Public Call Offices, one at Thuckalay and the other at Kanniyakumari.

After the merger of this area with Tamil Nadu, the then composite Postal and Telegraphs Department of the Madras Circle took over in 1961 another Telephone Exchange in Kanniyakumari and in 1963 another at Thuckalay were commissioned. The next to come up was at Bhoothapandy in 1964.

In the years that followed, the district, which had only five exchanges during the early sixties, multiplied into 26 Telephone Exchanges and the Departmental Telegraph offices went up by two. Also seven long distance public Telephones and 49 combined offices in the District have come up thereby making the network complete. Taluk-wise break up of the Telecom installations in the district is furnished in the annexure.

The Telephone exchange functioning at Nagercoil with 3000 lines MAX. I is the largest Telephone exchange to speak of in the District. Next is the Telephone exchange at Kuzhithurai which has now a 300 lines MAX.II. The district was brought under the Telex map with the commissioning of a Telex exchange in 1982 at Nagercoil which has made Nagercoil gain both way linkages with 108 foreign countries. Subscriber Trunk Dialling facilities are available in Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari and Kuzhithurai which can link Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and 400 other cities in the country which are having National Subscriber Dialling (NSD) facilities. Also for these three exchanges in the district, International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facility is available. This facility is extended to 85 countries in the world. In respect of the other state capitals there is National Subscriber Dialling. For the purpose of routing these inter urban calls, Nagercoil has been connected to the Madurai Trunk Automatic exchange, a primary switching centre, through an underground co-axial cable laid between Madurai and Trivandrum. A carrier system has been installed between Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari. A Co-axial station also functions at Nagercoil. The department has proposed to extend STD facilities to Thuckalay also. There is a Telex PCO at Nagercoil and three STD PCOs, one each at Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai and Kanniyakumari.

To better communication facilities in rural areas the district has been divided into two Unit Fee Zones (UFZ) viz., Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai. Nagercoil UFZ serves the taluks of Agasthiswaram and Thovalai, while Kuzhithurai zone serves the taluks of Kalkulam and Vilavancode. Under this facility, direct connection from Nagercoil is possible with Kanniyakumari, Azhagappapuram, Eathamozhi, Ramapuram, Swamithope and Thengampudur of Agasthiswaram taluk, with Bhoothapandy, Aralvoimozhi and Thadikarankonam of Thovalai Taluk. Group dialling among these stations are also available except between Bhoothapandy-Kanniyakumari and Aralvoimozhi-Eathamozhi. Likewise, Kuzhithurai, which is headquarters of Vilavancode Taluk is connected to Painkulam, Kaliyakavilai, Arumanai, Kulasekaram, Karingal and Kattathurai with group dialling facilities among them. Point to point STD facility is available between Nagercoil and Muttom.

For effective communication facility, a higher order Co-axial system known as "12 MHZ" has been sanctioned and it is likely to be commissioned before the 7th Five Year Plan, with a dropping station, at Kuzhithurai.

Interstice System has been planned for Thuckalay so that a stable medium is made available for introduction of STD/ISD facility.

Telegraphs : There are two telegraph offices, one at Nagercoil and another at Kuzhithurai and 49 morse working combined offices (37 at Nagercoil DTO and 12 at Kuzhithurai DTO) in the district. For speedy transmission of the messages to stations outside the State, 'Store and Forward' telegraph facility is available in the Nagercoil telegraph office. This facility is available for places outside the State and within the State as well. At Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai Telegraph offices for speedy transmission of the messages meant for important stations within Tamil Nadu State, "Store and Forward Gentex" facility is in use.

A Speech Circuit Communication System connecting the major irrigation canals like Kodayar (Pechiparai Dam) Chittar Patnamkal canal (Chittar Dam I & II) to the P.W.D. offices at Nagercoil has been evolved and is in service.

The Telecom network is equipped with 5595 lines of which 5085 lines are now functioning. The number of telephones in use is 5607. Besides internal plants of the 26 Telephone Exchanges, three Trunk Exchanges, 15 carrier stations and 20 lines Telex Exchanges at Nagercoil the Telephone Local Trunk and Telegraphs alignment all put together measure 1616 km. in length and carry 13109 km. of wire in this district. Underground cable laid in the district for the local telephone system is about 311 km. in cable length and 34426 km. in conductor length. The density of Telephone per 1000 is 3.6.

All the three Trunk Exchanges namely at Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai and Thuckalay handle about 2600 trunk calls a day. On an average 1,20,00,000 metered local calls including STD originating in this district per year fetch an average revenue of about Rs.2.05 crores per annum. The capital investment of the Department on Telecom assets in this district during 1986 is about Rs.10/- crores. As in 1987, about 513 personnel were working in the telecom department.

The details of Telephone exchanges, phonocom offices, etc. functioning in the district are furnished below (taluk wise) :–

Agastiswaram taluk

	Exchanges			*Equipped Capacity*
1.	Nagercoil	MAX	I	3000
2.	Eathamozhi	MAX	III	90
3.	Azhagappapuram	MAX	III	90
4.	Kanniyakumari	MAX	II	200
5.	Ramapuram	MAX	III	35
6.	Thengampudur	MAX	III	45
7.	Swamythoppu	MAX	III	90
8.	Muttorn	MAX	III	90

Phonocom Offices in Agastiswaram Taluk

1. Irulappapuram
2. Nagercoil Krishnankoil
3. Nagercoil Catherine Booth Hospital
4. Nagercoil Nesamani Nagar
5. Ramapuram
6. Vazhukkamparai
7. Variyoor
8. Devakulam
9. Edlakudi
10. Maravankudiyiruppu
11. Vadiveeswaram
12. Parakkai
13. Thengamputhur
14. Ganapathipuram
15. Kesavanputhanthurai

16. Rajakkamangalam
17. South Surangudi
18. Pottrayadi
19. Kovalam
20. Mahadanapuram,
21. South Tamaraikulam
22. Vivekanandapuram
23. James Town
24. Levengepuram
25. Kulasekaram
26. Marungoor
27. Kumarapuram
28. Nallur
29. Tamaraikulam

Long Distance Public Telephones

1. Kumarapuram, Thoppur
2. Marungoor
3. Saral

Stations having NSD and ISD facilities

1. Nagercoil
2. Kuzhithurai
3. Kanniyakumari

Departmental Telegraph Office

1. Nagercoil DTO-STD PT and Public Telex facilities available.

Telex Exchange

1. Nagercoil -20 lines

Morse working Combined offices

1. Agastiswaram
2. Mylady
3. Suchindram
4. Kanniyakumari- STD PT facility available
5. Azhagappapuram
6. Kottaram
7. Nagercoil Town
8. Nagercoil Collectorate
9. Nagercoil Industrial Estate
10. Kottar
11. Puthalam
12. Eathamozhi
13. Vadasery
14. Vettoornimadam

Vilavancode Taluk

	Exchange			*Equipped capacity*
1.	Kuzhithurai	MAX	II	300 lines
2.	Arumanai	MAX	III	90 lines
3.	Lower Kodayar	MAX	III	25 lines
4.	Kollencode	MAX	III	90 lines
5.	Painkulam	MAX	III	90 lines
6.	Kaliakkavilai	MAX	III	90 lines

Phonocom Offices in Vilavancode Taluk

1. Attoor
2. Gabavilai
3. Irenipuram
4. Kanjiracodu
5. Nalloor
6. Nattalam
7. Unnamalaikadai
8. Thuthur Pudukkadai
9. Kankampuram
10. S.T. Mangad
11. Kaliyal
12. Chittodu
13. Idaicodu
14. Palukal
15. Palappallam
16. Thickanamcode
17. Udayamarthandam

Departmental Telegraph Office

1. Kuzhithurai - STD PT facility available.

Long Distance Public Telephones

1. Meppalai
2. Alancholai

Morse using Combined Offices

1. Kollencode
2. Kaliakkavilai
3. Pacode
4. Arumanai
5. Pudukadai
6. Thengapattinam.
7. Kunnathur

Thovalai Taluk

	Exchange			*Equipped capacity*
1.	Bhoothapandy	MAX	III	90 lines
2.	Aralvoimozhi	MAX	III	90 lines
3.	Keeriparai	MAX	III	35 lines
4.	Thadikarankonam	MAX	III	25 lines

Morse Working combined Offices

1. Azhagiapandipuram
2. Bhoothapandy
3. Aralvoimozhi

Phonocom offices in Thovalai Taluk

1. Chenbagaraman Pudur
2. Erachakulam
3. Putheri
4. Thazhakudi
5. Tirupatisaram
6. Thovalai

7. Vellamadam
8. Arumanallur
9. Darisanamcoppu
10. Kadukkarai
11. Keeriparai
12. Palkulam
13. Thadikarankonam

Kalkulam Taluk

	Exchange			*Equipped Capacity*
1.	Thuckalay	MAX	III	200 Lines
2.	Kulasekaram	MAX	III	300 Lines
3.	Kattathurai	MAX	III	90 Lines
4.	Karingal	MAX	III	90 Lines
5.	Neyyoor	MAX	III	135 Lines
6.	Aloor	MAX	III	35 Lines
7.	Colachel	MAX	III	90 Lines
8.	Manakkavilai	MAX	III	90 Lines

Long Distance Public Telephones

1. Mekkamandapam
2. Maniyankuzhi

Morse Working Combined Offices

1. Thiruvattar
2. Kulasekaram
3. Palliyadi
4. Karingal

5. Kappiyara
6. Mulagumoodu
7. Villukiri
8. Manavalakurichy
9. Asaripallam
10. Neyyoor
11. Colachel
12. Thiruvithancode
13. Mekkamandapam
14. Kattathurai
15. Thuckalay
16. Aloor

Phonocom Offices in Kalkulam Taluk

1. Mettukada
2. Padmanabapuram Fort
3. Manalikarai
4. Kumarapuram
5. Azhagiamandapam
6. Ammandivilai
7. Friday Market
8. Santhapuram
9. Saral
10. Kodiyapatnam
11. Chungankadai
12. Kattimancode
13. Vembanur
14. Kallukuttam
15. Karankadi

16. Kurunthancodu
17. Lakshmipuram
18. Mekkodu
19. Neyyoor Fort
20. Colachel Fort

Radio and T.V. Stations : A Local Radio Station, first of its kind in India, has been functioning at Nagercoil since October 30, 1984. Its studio and transmitter are located in Nagercoil town. This is different from the Regional Network of Radio Stations, as it is basically utility service-oriented and serves only a small area, i.e. Kanniyakumari district only. Its accent is on handling the local problems extensively. Comprising predominantly field based programmes, the Local Radio adopts a down-to-earth character and establishes a two-way communication system between the listeners and the extension agencies of various Government departments. Apart from providing opportunities to district groups in the community to present their own programmes affording scope for the articulation of local talent and views, the Local Radio Station organises a number of 'help-line' services to the listeners in employment, education, housing, law and family problems and the local aspirations thus will find fulfilment through the local radio. [5]

A T.V. Relay centre with a capacity of 100 watt transmitter power was formally commissioned here on September 5, 1987. The Low Power Transmitter is supplied by G.C.E.L. and the output power is 100 watts. This Relay Centre covers a distance upto 18 km. At present only Delhi programmes are relayed. Now the Doordarshan Department has arranged to relay Tamil programmes from D.D.K. Madras for 90 minutes from 15th August 1988 onwards. The transmitter is operating on Channel-6 frequency. [6]

100 Watts Transmitter installed in T.V. Relay Station, Nagercoil

Parabolic Disc. Antena Mast installed in T.V.Relay Station, Nagercoil

Railways : Railways link the entire country and afford the best and sure transportation whether it be passenger or goods.

There were no rail routes in Kanniyakumari district till 1979 but this district was connected only by two National Highways (i.e.) from Tirunelveli and Trivandrum.

To cope with the pouring passenger traffic, to be more specific, - tourists, the need for connecting this part of the country with the rest of the country by rail was keenly felt and hence the present railway link to Kanniyakumari district.

Length of Rail routes (points connected and important Railway Stations) : A length of 56 km. broad guage line connecting Kuzhithurai West Halt Station and Kavalkinaru Halt Station on the Main line between Tirunelveli and Trivandrum Central section and 16 km. of Branch line between Nagercoil junction and Kanniyakumari section serves the Kanniyakumari district. The stations served by these Railway lines are indicated below:-

Main line	*Branch line*
Kuzhithurai West Halt	Nagercoil Junction
Kuzhithurai	Suchindrum Halt
Palliyadi Halt	Tamarakulam
Eranniel	Agastiswaram Halt
Viranialur	Kanniyakumari
Nagercoil Town	
Nagercoil Junction	
Thovalai Halt	
Aralvoimozhi	
Kavalkinaru Halt	

The rail route from Kuzhithurai west to Nagercoil junction and branch line from Nagercoil junction to Kanniyakumari was opened

on 16 April 1979. The section from Nagercoil Junction to Kavalkinaru was commissioned on 2 April 1981.

The following are the trains running in Kanniyakumari District[7]

1	371	–	Trivandrum Central	– Kanniyakumari Passenger
2	372	–	Nagercoil Junction	– Trivandrum Central Passenger
3	375/376	–	Trivandrum Central	– Nagercoil Junction Passenger
4	377	–	Trivandrum Central	– Nagercoil Junction Passenger
5	378	–	Kanniyakumari	– Trivandrum Central Passenger
6	81/82	–	Bombay VT	– Kanniyakumari Express
7	391/392	–	Nagercoil Junction	– Kanniyakumari Passenger
8	394	–	Kanniyakumari	– Nagercoil Junction Passenger
9	381/386 and 384/383	–	Nagercoil Junction	– Tirunelveli passenger
10	382/385	–	Tirunelveli	– Trivandrum Central passenger

The Him Sagar Express introduced from 3 August 1984 is the first direct train service to link the country's northern border the Himalayas and the southern tip, Kanniyakumari

Airport : Kanniyakumari district is not linked by air. The nearest airport is at Trivandrum which is 85 km. from Nagercoil.

Roadways : The network of roadways of a country is as essential as the arterial system to the human body. The roads in a big way facilitate advancement in the economy of a country and they simultaneously facilitate communication.

In the matter of surface transport, they are almost equal to the railways which connect other parts of the country through its large railway network system. These two transports are not parallel but inter-dependent.

The Madras-Kanniyakumari Highway joins the Kanniyakumari-Trivandrum road near Aralvoimozhi which passes through Nagercoil touching other important places and terminates at Trivandrum in Kerala

Railway Station, Kanniyakumari

State covering a distance of 62.4 km. from Aralvoimozhi to Kerala border. The views on either side of this road can never fail to attract the travellers.

Tracing the history of a regular system of road communication in the Kanniyakumari area it dates back to 1860 and the credit goes to Sir Madhava Rao, the then Dewan of Travancore-Cochin State. The work part of it was executed by the Engineering Department which was set up during his period. However, these roads were primarily intended for the movement of troops, but in the days to come it accommodated civilian traffic also. During the rule of Rama Varma (1758-98 A.D.) a good road [8] was laid between Kanniyakumari-Kodungalaur (Crangalur).

Road Transport Services : Roads play a vital part in economic development, opening up remote area, stimulating the growth of agriculture as well as industry, besides facilitating communication. As an essential element of the transport infrastructure, they contribute, along with the railways, the nation's lifeline.

The road network in Kanniyakumari district consits of National highways, State highways, District roads and Rural roads. The trunk road from Madras to Nagercoil joins the Kanniyakumari- Trivandrum road near Aralvoimozhi and passes through important places over a distance of 62.4 km. and finally enters Kerala State. The road from Kanniyakumari to Trivandrum is one of the busiest roads in the country.

The erstwhile State of Travancore-Cochin adopted a policy of nationalisation of transport and as a result the Transport Department was formed in the state in 1938.[9] Routes between Trivandrum and Kanniyakumari (via) Nagercoil and Colachel were the first to be taken up for nationalisation. After the reorganisation of States in 1956, the bus transport service in Kanniyakumari district was taken over by the State Transport Department of the then Madras State.

The important private bus operators in the district during 1960's were Messrs. Pioneer Motors (P) Limited, P.T.S. Motor Service and Sri Ganapathy Motor Service at Nagercoil and Messrs. R.K.V. Motors and Timbers (P) Limited and P.C. Motor Service at Marthandam.

For the purpose of providing an efficient, adequate and coordinated road transport service, the State Government decided to nationalise certain classes of routes in 1967 which resulted in the nationalisation of the following routes in the district :–[10]

1	Mettukadai	to	Thoduvetty	(1967)
2	Thoduvetty	to	Thiruparappu	(1967)
3	Nagercoil	to	Colachel	(1967)
4	Thoduvetty	to	Kaliyal	(1967)
5	Thuckalay	to	Thiruvarambu	(1967)
6	Nagercoil	to	Kurumbanai	(1967)
7	Thoduvetty	to	Alancholai	(1968)
8	Thuckalay	to	Kulasekharam	(1968)
9	Nagercoil	to	Manakudy	(1970)
10	Thoduvetty	to	Thengapattinam	(1970)

Subsequently all bus routes in the district have been nationalised and the Kanniyakumari district is now a totally nationalised area.[11]

State Transport Corporations : The nationalised transport activities in the district were managed by the Kattabomman Transport Corporation with head quarters at Tirunelveli from 1 January 1974 to 31 March 1983. Subsequently this was taken over by the Nesamony Transport Corportation Limited formed on 1 April 1983. This Corporation provides bus facilities to the entire Kanniyakumari district and operate buses to important places outside the district and State as well such as Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Tiruchendur, Papansam, Trivandrum, Kottarakkara, etc. This Corporation with a fleet of 471 buses operate 436 services and handles on an average 1.41 lakhs passengers every day.[12]

Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation Limited: Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation operates services to and fro from Kanniyakumari to places within the State and outside as well. Retiring rooms and cloak room facilities are available at Kanniyakumari bus station.[13] Reservation facilities are also available at Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari, Marthandam, Kaliyakkavilai and Colachel.

Highways and Rural Works : This Department is incharge of planning, design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in Tamil Nadu. Besides it offers technical guidance to the Panchayat Unions in respect of Rural Works programme. This department chalks out plans for road development and implements them.

View of newly built bus terminal at Kanniyakumari

Length of roads under different categories : By 1962, the total road network in the district was 1323.2 km. and it increased to 3110 km. during 1980-81.[14]

Roads maintained by the Highways and Rural Works Department as on 1 April 1986 (length in km.) :–

	Classification of road	*Total length*	*C.C*	*Surfaced B.T.*	*W.B.M.*	*Unsurfaced earthern*
1	State Highways	48.90	–	48.90	–	–
2	Major District Roads	274.30	12.20	262.10	–	–
3	Other District Roads.	571.50	–	567.40	2.90	1.20

The per capita length of surface road was 0.0022 km. against the State figure of 0.0025 km. during 1986.[15]

National Highways : The National Highways wing was created in September 1971. Implementation of National Highways Projects (Centrally Sponsored) and Central Road Fund Schemes is its responsibility. After reorganisation, responsibilities extend to the maintenance work in the Urban links of the National Highways also.

In the district the National Highways Department maintains two roads viz. N.H.7 and N.H.47 totalling 63.2 km. in Kanniyakumari district.[16] The total length of N.H.7 is 7.2 km. which starts from Kanniyakumari at the 224/4 point and ends at Anjugramam (231/6 km. point). The length of N.H. 47 here is 56 km. (i.e.) from Kanniyakumari to Kerala border.

Roads maintained by local bodies :–[17]

Classification	*Total length (kms.)*	*Surfaced*			*Unsurfaced*
		C.C.	*B.T. (in km.)*	*Met.*	
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
Panchayat-Union roads	1231	1	53	769	408
Panchayat-roads	699	7	50	133	509
Total	1930	8	103	902	917

Schemes undertaken by the State Highways Department :-

(a)	*Schemes completed*	*Cost* (RS. IN LAKHS)
1.	Construction of a bridge across Kuzhithurai river at KM. 1/6 of Marthandam Panachamoodu Road.	24.00
2.	Reconstruction of the bridge at Km.1/8 of Eraniel-Muttom Road	5.64
3.	Construction of a bridge at Km. 2/8 of Kumerankudy road	17.00
4.	Construction of a Km. o/4 of North Thamaraikulam Road.	10.75
5.	Widening Mondaikadu Road Km. o/o -2/6	6.00
6.	Construction of Union Staff quarters at Thiruvattar	4.40

Under R.L.E.G.P. sponsored by the Government of India, 25 works were completed. A total length of 40.2 km. of roads has been constructed and an expenditure of Rs.70.81 lakh has been incurred generating 4.29 lakhs of labour mandays.

(RS. IN LAKHS)

1.	Reconstructing the weak bridge across Valliar near Manavalakurichy at KM. 16/2 of Nagercoil Rajakkamangalam-Colachel Road.	27.50
2.	Reconstruction of the weak bridge across Paraliar near Thiruvattar at KM. 5/6 of Marthandam-Pechiparai road.	33.00
3.	Construction of a submersible bridge across Kodayar river at KM. 4/1 of Kulasekaram-Thiruvarambu road.	14.00
4.	Reconstruction of the bridge across Mullaiyar at KM.5/2 of Kuzhithurai-Alencholai Road.	11.20
5.	Reconstruction of weak bridge at KM. 26/2 of Balamore road near Keeripparai.	12.50

Lorry Agencies :– [18]

1 M/S. T.V.S. & Sons Limited.
2 M/S. A.B.T. Parcel Service, Nagercoil.
3 Sri Raghavan Transport, Nagercoil.
4 M/S. Oriental Lorry Service, Nagercoil.
5 Tvl. R. Somanathan & Company.
6 M/S. Prince Lorry Serivce, Marthandam.
7 M/S. A.R.C. Monday Market, Neyyoor.

Petrol stations are at Kanniyakumari, Nagercoil, Thuckalay, Marthandam, Monday Market and Colachel.

Category-wise registered Commercial Vehicles in the District from 1980-1985*

	Category of Transport (1)	*1980* (2)	*1981* (3)	*1982* (4)	*1983* (5)	*1984* (6)	*1985* (7)
1	Taxis	643	690	760	781	790	823
2	Autorickshaws	445	465	477	480	510	524
3	Automobiles (Non-Transport)	4985	5100	5184	5280	5310	5460
4	Vehicles under the control of the Municipal authorities	9	9	9	9	9	9
5	Town Buses	158	163	167	175	186	207
6	Mofussil Buses	59	61	61	58	62	64
7	Goods Vehicles-Public carrier	632	705	791	885	963	1078
8	Goods Vehiclés-Private carrier	41	49	55	47	56	66

* Regional Transport Officer, Kanniyakumari District, Nagercoil, Report dated 18 July 1986

Vehicular position as on 1 April 1988 is as follows:-

		Route	*Spare*	
1.	Stage Carriages	40	30	
	T.P.	330	–	
2.	Public Carriers	1543		
3.	Private Carriers	167		
4.	Taxis	489		
5.	Tourist Taxis	575	7	(All India permit)
6.	Autorickshaws	818		

Statement of Routes Originating from the places in Kanniyakumari District by T.T.C. Ltd.

(position as in December 1987)

Sl. No. (1)	Route No. (2)	Operated between (3)			No. of buses in the route (4)	Route length in Kms. (5)	No. of Single trips (6)	Via. places (7)
1	501	Nagercoil	–	Madurai	2	235	6	Thirunelveli, Kovilpatti–Sattur–Virudhunagar–Tirumangalm
2	511	"	–	Trichy	14	363	28	Thuvarankurichi–Kottampatti–Madurai–Kovilpatti–Kayatharu–Thirunelveli–Valliyur
3	512	"	–	Mandapam	3	314	6	Kanniyakumari–Tiruchendur–Tuticorin–Ervadi–Ramnad
4	551	"	–	Madras	20	682	20	Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kayatharu–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Melur–Trichy
5	552	"	–	Bangalore	2	664	2	Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Karur–Salem–Dharmapuri–Hosur
6	562	"	--	Cumbum	2	323	4	Thirunelveli–Sankarankoil–Raja palayam–Thulukampatti–Peraiyur–Usilampatti–Theni

(1)	(2)	(3)			(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
7	584	Nagercoil	–	Vellore	4	687	4	Nanguneri–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Melur–Trichy–Madapet–Thiruvannamalai–Polur'
8	646	"	–	Madras	2	700	2	Cheranmadevi–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram
9	521	"	–	Tanjore	4	402	8	Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Tirupathur–Pudukottai
10	523	Kanniyakumari	–	Pondy	2	606	2	Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Tirupathur–Tanjore–Myladuthurai–Cuddalore
11	550	Nagercoil	–	Pondy	2	592	2	Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Trichy–Thozhudur–Neyveli–Cuddalore
12	511 C	Colachel	–	Trichy	2	387	4	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai
13	512 A	"	–	Mandapam	2	324	4	Colachel–Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Tuticorin–Sayalkudi–Ramnad
14	511 B	Kanniyakumari	–	Trichy	2	381	4	Nagercoil–Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Kottampatti
15	513	"	–	Trivandrum	1	88	6	Nagercoil–Thoduvetty–Kaliakkavilai–Neyyatinkarai
16	514	"	–	Coimbatore	8	481	12	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Dindugal–Palani
17	517	"	–	Vellore	2	674	2	Nagercoil–Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kayatharu–Koilpatti–Madurai–Trichy–Arni

(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
18	525	Kanniyakumari	– Bangalore	2	682	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Karur–Salem–Dharmapuri–Hosur
19	564	"	– Tirupathy	2	788	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kayatharu–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Dindugal–Karur–Namakkal–Salem–Tirupathur–Ambur–Chitoor
20	588	"	– Madurai	2	253	6	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Virudhunagar
21	589	"	– Madras	8	700	8	Nagercoil–Thirunelveii–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram
22	605	"	– Coimbatore	2	518	2	Overi–Nazarath–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Dindugal–Palani–Pollachi
23	630	"	– Ooty	2	566	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kayatharu–Madurai–Dindugal–Palani–Coimbatore–Mettupalayam
24	642	"	– Kancheepuram	2	665	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram–Cheyyar
25	533	Marthandam	– Pondy	2	618	2	Nagercoil–Valliyur–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Tirupathur–Thozhudur–Kumbakonam–Cuddalore
26	551 A	"	– Madras	2	712	2	Nagercoil–Thuckalay–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy
27	551 B	"	– Madras	2	717	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram–(Karungal).

Source : State Port Officer, Madras - Report, dated 12. October 1987.

(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
28	551 C	Marthandam	– Madras	2	727	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram (Via-Colachel)
29	551 D	"	– Madras	2	740	2	Kulasekaram–Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram
30	551 E	"	– Madras	2	737	2	Kaliakkavilai–Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Trichy–Villupuram
31	608	"	– Coimbatore	3	493	4	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai–Dindugal–Palani
32	656	"	– Bangalore	2	699	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Karur–Salem–Dharmapuri
33	511 B	"	– Trichy	4	393	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Kovilpatti–Madurai
34	589 A	Kanniyakumari	– Kalpakkam	2	694	2	(via) Thirunelveli–Madurai and Chengalpattu
35	511 B	Marthandam	– Trichy	2	393	4	"

Routes passing through Kanniyakumari District

Sl. no. (1)	Route no. (2)	Operated between (3)			No.of buses (4)	Route length in km. (5)	No. of Single trips (6)	Important places (via) (7)
1	653	Velankanni	–	Trivandrum	2	568	2	Nagai–Tanjore–Madurai–Nagercoil–Thoduvetty
2	654	Madurai	–	Trivandrum	8	305	16	Thirunelveli–Nagercoil–Marthandam
3	660	Coimbatore	–	Trivandrum	2	533	2	Palani–Madurai–Thirunelveli–Nagercoil–Thoduvetty
4	663	Trivandrum	–	Hosur	2	705	2	Nagercoil–Thirunelveli–Madurai–Karur–Salem–Dharmapuri
5	669	Erode	–	Trivandrum	2	513	2	Karur–Dindugal–Madurai–Nagercoil
6	670	Pondy	–	Trivandrum	2	660	2	Neyveli–Kumbakonam–Pudukottai–Nagercoil–Thoduvetty.
7	590	Madras	–	Trivandrum	8	752	8	Villuppuram–Trichy–Madurai–Thirunelveli–Nagercoil

Source : General Manager, T.T.C. Madras, Report dated 5 December 1987.

Ports : It is rightly said that Ports are perhaps the windows through which a country sees the rest of the world and as to how they prove it is what is set forth in the paragraphs to follow:–

Speaking about Kanniyakumari district, there are two minor ports, one at Colachel and the other at Kanniyakumari. Their locations and respective importance are discussed below.

Colachel Port - The Port of Colachel is situated in Latitude 8° -10' N and Longitude 77°-14' E. The port being ancient, was re-modelled during the period of Maharaja Rama Varma in the 18th century. It is the only natural port on the West coast of Tamil Nadu. The port appears like a Bay. Steamers of about 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes, anchor at this port.

Anchorage - Anchorage is in seven fathoms of water at a distance of 5.5 cables from the port flag staff in position latitude 8°-10'- 17.85" and longitude 77°-15'-21.97" (chart-2037).

From here, palmyrah fibre and mineral sands are loaded for onward transmission to foreign countries. There is no jetty at this port. The wharf is the open beach which extends about 274 m. from the Flag Staff compound. Lightering between the ship and shore is carried on with the help of 195 Registered canoes of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ tonnes each. These canoes are towed by the mechanised fishing vessels.

Loading and unloading at this port is confined to the months from 15th September to 14th May, the intervening period being the South West monsoon period. The foreshore boundary wall and a road has been constructed to facilitate cargo movement. This port mostly serves M/s. Indian Rare Earths Limited., which is engaged in the transport of Ilmenite and Monosite (sand) etc.

Navigational aids : The light house in Colachel Port from its installation in 1925 to 1985 was using oil burners. Thanks to modern technology during 1981, the oil burners came to be replaced by a 100 watts bulb. The light part of it positioned between 8°-10.3 N and 77°-35' E was able to throw light upto a distance of 8 km. This light is known as Anchorage Light. The light was on from 18.00 hours to 06.00 hours daily on all the 365 days in the year.

Then another 100 watts red light was set up in the port in 1985 at a height of 40 feet and is positioned between 8° - 10.3' N and 77°- 15' E.

This light known as Port Light is able to disperse light upto a distance of 12.8 km. The first light house to come up was in 1911 which was a beacon installed on a masonry structure at a height of $27\frac{1}{2}$ meters painted in black and horizontal stripes. It is located at the rear of the Anchorage light.

Port Signal Station : There is a signal station in Port. It facilitates ships which are at anchor to communicate with the shore using the International Code of signals by way of the Morse signalling lamp. A flag mast for flag signalling is also here in front of the Port Office and so also there is a storm signal system.

Kanniyakumari Port[19]: This is also a minor port situated between latitude 8^0-4.6 'N and longitude 77^0-32.2' East on the southern most point of India.

This port serves exclusively for the transport of tourists from Kanniyakumari shore to Vivekananda Rock Memorial. The Ferry service to Vivekananda Rock and main land was run by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra till 20th July 1981. Govt . of Tamilnadu took over the ferry service from 1 October 1981 and it was run by the Tamil Nadu port Department till 16 August 1984. Then it was handed over to the Poompuhar Shipping Corportation Ltd, on 17 August 1984 which maintains ferry service from that date. Both the above ports come under the Tamil Nadu Port Department which is controlled by the State Transport Department.

Light houses : There are two lighthouses one at Muttam and the other at Kanniyakumari.

Muttam Point Lighthouse : This Lighthouse is situated at 16 km. away from Nagercoil town. It was orignally established in 1885 and subsequently improved in 1909. At present, the tower is octogonal stone masonry of 22 M. height. It is painted in horizontal black and white bands. From this painting, the mariners can identify the lighthouse during day time. The optical equipment is a second order (F = 700 mm) consisting of 4 panelled revolving optic mounted on a mercury float pedestal, and the main light source is a 55 mm. P.V. mantle burner. The optic rotates at 3 R.P.M. providing a character single flashing every 5 seconds with a flash period of 0.2 sec. The effective beam intensity is 3,40,000 candelas.

Muttom Point Light House

Kanniyakumari Light House

The emergency source consists of a capillary oil lamp. The optic is housed in a 3.65 M. lantern. This lighthouse is located in Muttom village and has a visibility ranging over 23 nautical miles in average weather conditions.

Kanniyakumari Lighthouse : This modern electrically operated lighthouse has been established in Kanniyakumari Town on 4 November 1971 as part of the development programme under the Five Year Plans. The optical equipment is of the 3rd order small (F=375 mm.) which consists of 4 panelled revolving lens apparatus which rotates at a speed of 1.5 R.P.M. providing a character group flashing (2) every 20 seconds. The effective intensity of the beam is 28,95,000 candelas with the main source. The main illuminant is a 3,000 W. 110 V. electric lamp. A smaller standby lamp comes into focus in the event of failure of both the main and standby lamps, the emergency source which consists of incandescent acetylene mantle with a 60 litres capacity burner, swing into action. The optical equipment is housed in a 2.5 M. dia lantern. and the range of visibility is over 29 nautical miles in average weather conditions.[20]

Bridges : Bridges maintained by the Highways and Rural Works Department and the National Highways Department are as follows :-[21]

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of the Bridge (2)*	*Name of the river crossing (3)*	*Location (4)*
1	Kuzhithurai Bridge	Thamiraparani river	At k.m.623/2 of 47
2	Bridge	PWD channel	At km. 9/4 of Aralvoimozhi-Nedumangad road
3	Bridge	PWD channel	At km. 13/6 – do –
4	Peruvazhikadavu Bridge	PWD channel	At k.m 28/8 – do –
5	Kaliel Bridge	Kothayar river	At km. 40/8 – do –
6	Ozhuginaseri Bridge	Pazhayar river	At km. 68/2 of Nagercoil–Aralvoimozhi road.
7	Eraniel Bridge	Valliar river	At km. 13/4 of Paraseri-Colachel road

8	Keeripparai Bridge	Pambar river	At km. 26/2 Balamore road.
9	Manavalakurichy Bridge	Valliar river	At km. 16/2 of Nagercoil Rajakkamangalam-Colachel road.
10	Thiruvattar Bridge	Paraliar river	At km. 5/6 of Marthandam Pechipparai road.
11	Bridge	Valliar river	At km. 1/10 of Meycode-Kulasekharam road.
12	Nesamony Bridge	Thamiraparani river	At km. 1/6 of Marthandam-Panachamoodu road
13	Pallam Palam Bridge	Valliar river	At km. 1/8 of Eraniel-Muttom road
14	Thalakulam submersible Bridge	Valliar river	At km. 3/2 of Thalakulam road
15	Kumarankudy Bridge	Paraliar river	At km.2/8 of Kumarankudy road
16	Thaemanoor Bridge	Paraliar river	At km. 3/10of Arumanai- Attoor road
17	Moovathumugam Bridge	Paraliar river	At km. 1/6 of Moovathumugam road
18	Bridge	Theroor Kal	At km. 1/2 New Veeranamangalam road
19	Bridge	Paruthivaikal	At km. 1/4 of Mecode Elanthayambalam road
20	Submersible	Pazhayar river	At km. 0/4 of Parakkai-Thammaraikulam road

Bridges under the control of the National Highways [22]

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Bridge (2)	Location (3)	Name of the Taluk (4)
1	Kuzhithurai Bridge	KM.604/4 of NH.47	Vilavancode
2	Valliar Bridge	KM.621/2 of NH 47	Kalkulam
3	Puliyakurichi Bridge	KM.622/6 of NH 47	Kalkulam
4	Edalangudi Bridge	KM. 638/18 of NH 47	Agasthiswaram
5	Yaanai Bridge	KM. 638/10 of NH 47	Agasthiswaram
6	Suchindrum Bridge	KM. 641/6 of NH 47	Agasthiswaram
7	Kal Bridge	KM. 642/4 of NH 47	Agasthiswaram

The Highways and Rural Works Department operates ferry services free of cost in the following river crossings during the rainy season which extends to nine months in a year. Ferry services are available at the following places :–[23]

1. Themanoor (Vellancode) Crossing Bharathiapalli road.
2. Marthandam Crossing – Marthandam – Panichamoodu road.
3. Thickurichi Crossing – Payanam road.
4. Ganapathiyankadavoo Crossing – Pudukkadai – Kollencode road.
5. Paruthikadavoo Crossing – Munchirai Union Area.
6. Mulagumoodukadavoo Crossing – Munchirai – Mulagumoodukadavoo road.
7. Moovattumugam Crossing – Thiruvattar – Moovattumugam road.

Waterways and Canals : The district is endowed with good rivers. Paraliyar, Valliyar, Kodayar and Pazhayar are the important rivers. In olden days when good roadways were few the people depended mostly on river transport.

In the District there are lagoons and backwaters. The backwaters are locally called as 'Kayals'. The lagoons and backwaters are inlets from the sea, which run parallel to the cost. The lagoons, though not deep enough throughout are however navigable for boats. While azhis are permanent outlets, pozhils are only temporary outlets.

A Kayal near Manakudi in Agastiswaram taluk and a small lagoon in Painkulam village near Thengapattanam to speak of are the two waterways which benefit the people.

As regards canals, navigation facilities are available in the Anantha Victoria Marthandan Canal known as the A.V.M. canal which runs from Trivandrum to Thengapattanam covering a distance of 21 km. of which 8.8 km., the stretch between Thengapattanam and Neerodai, lies within the Tamil Nadu State. Ferry service here is run by private agencies.

Travellers Bungalows :[24] Travellers Bungalows are at the following places:-

1. Sripadmanabhanalloor
2. Thadikkarankonam
3. Keeriparai
4. Thiruvattar
5. Cheruppaloor
6. Pechipparai
7. Kodaiyar
8. Vadaseri
9. Ramavarmapuram

Inspection Bungalows are at Kanniyakumari, Radhapuram, Thiruvattar, Colachel, Puliyoorkurichi, Pechipparai, Sivalogam and Cheruppaloor.

Tourist bungalows are at Balamore and Kanniyakumari. There is a Project House and a Rest shed at Kuzhithurai.

Guest Houses : There is a Guest House in Kanniyakumari under the control of P.W.D. The Government of Kerala also maintains a Guest House here by name Kerala House.

Rest Houses : In addition there are rest houses also here. To supplement, a number of private boarding and lodging houses and pilgrim quarters have come up to meet the demands of the visiting tourists. At Thadikkarankonam, Aramboly, Thirpparappu and Kanniyakumari, there are camp sheds.

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CHAPTER – 9

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Economic Trend indicates the general movement of economic factors such as demographic features, agriculture, industry, wages, general price level, employment etc. in an economy over a period of time. It outlines the general tendency towards Government participation in economic affairs. The process of development is essentially a real phenomenon. The increase in real sources and their effective utilisation determines the rate of progress of an economy.

Speaking about the trend of the economy of the Kanniyakumari district, there is a subtle difference when compared to the rest of the districts of Tamil Nadu. The climatic condition, vegetation, cropping pattern and food habits of the people are more akin to the neighbouring Kerala State in spite of the fact that Kanniyakumari district is culturally different from that of Kerala.

Kanniyakumari is a small district having an area of 1684 sq.km. which represents only 1.29 per cent of the total area of the state. Out of this total area, 1641.3 sq.km. are rural and 42.7 km. are urban areas.[1] About 32.7 per cent of the total area is under forests. Its economy is predominantly agricultural and plantation based.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people in rural areas. Out of the total area of 144249.98 hectares, the total cultivable area is 60.86 per cent of which 38.98 per cent is irrigated.

Population and Livelihood Pattern : The total population of the district as per 1981 census is 14,23,399. Out of this, 11,77,867 people live in rural areas and only 2,45,532 are urbanites. The percentage of urban population of the district to total population is 17.25 as against 32.95 percent for Tamil Nadu which indicates that more than 82 per cent are in rural areas. This shows that Kanniyakumari is a district having typical rural character. Agasthiswaram taluk has three fourth of the urban population. There is no urban area in Thovalai taluk.

Of the total population of 14,23,399 persons, 7,16,958 are males and 7,06,441 are females. Thus, the population of males works out to 50.37 per cent while that of females works out to 49.63 per cent. It may thus be seen that the male population outweighs females.

Food habits :[2] Rice is the staple food in the district and tapioca supplements to a larger extent. The poor take gruel, while well-to do are rice eaters. The labour community consumes simple form of food., *viz.* gruel and tapioca and the dish is mainly fish.

Housing : According to Census operations for the year 1960, there were 2,11,543 houses in the district, out of which 1,80,046 *i.e.*, 85.11per cent were in rural and 31,497 were in urban areas. Out of every 1000 census houses in the district, 938 were occupied and 62 vacant. Density of population per occupied house is 7.17 persons. It is evidenced there from that each house is densely populated. Among the total occupied census houses, 829 were pure or mixed dwellings and the remaining 109 houses were used as shops, factories, hotels, schools, places of entertainment, public health instructions etc. The number of vacant houses was high in Thovalai taluk due to low proportion under pure dwellings and shops. In regard to occupied houses, Agasthiswaram taluk recorded higher proportion of workshops, worksheds and workshop-*cum*- dwellings. Nagercoil, being the district and taluk headquarters had given a high proportion of workshops.

Mud, burnt bricks and stones are important materials used for the construction of houses both at the State and district levels. A distinct feature in Kanniyakumari district is that unburnt bricks palmyrah rafters and bamboos are used. to a very large extent. These are the peculiarities noticed nowhereelse except here. In fact, mud is not so predominant in other parts of the State. Unburnt and burnt bricks alone account for more than 60 per cent of the raw materials used for the construction of walls. Timber is another important wall material in view of its easy accessibility in the forest areas. These facts indicate a better condition of housing in the district.[3]

Grass, leaves, thatches etc. are generally used as important roof raw materials in the State. But, they do not form such high importance in the district now. Tiles constitute an important roof material especially in urban sector. There is also another feature that brick and lime, which constitute the Madras terrace, account for a low proportion in the district. Thus, preference is given generally for thatched roof in rural sector, tiled roof in urban sector and brick walls in both the sectors.

In all the taluks, more than 52 per cent of the houses are constructed with either burnt or unburnt bricks. The residents of Vilavancode has given

more preference for unburnt bricks. Mud, bamboo palmyrah rafters and timbers have also been used here to a greater extent, than in other taluks.

Stone is used to a large extent in Thovalai, which is a hilly tract. Number of mud walls is also comparatively larger in the taluk. Stone and bamboo walls are noticed in Agasthiswaram taluk.

On the whole, Agasthiswaram taluk assumes first place with about 50 per cent of the houses constructed either with stone or burnt bricks as wall material.[4] While Vilavancode comes last with only 23 per cent.

Generally in rural and urban areas, one can see independent houses which have mango, guava, jack, banana, coconut, papaya trees etc. within the compound.

Standard of Living : Usually refers to the economic level at which an individual or family lives up. It is determined by the value of goods and services produced or consumed by the individual or family during a given period.

Income is generally a measure of inequailty. But direct data regarding income distribution being a scarce factor the standard of living could be set to reflect by the basis of consumption.

There was no special study on calorie consumption in respect of Kanniyakumari district. However, materials pertaining to Tamil Nadu in general have been narrated.

Relevant data for 1961-62 revealed that average calorie intake per capita for India as a whole was 2445, while the *inter*-state variations ranged from 1620 to 3037.[5]

With reference to data on per capita food production, in terms of calorie intake, Tamil Nadu was better than Kerala. It was observed that cereals formed main part of foodgrain production. It may thus be seen that there is a close relation between calorie intake and per capita foodgrains production.

The calorie intake for 1961-62 in Tamil Nadu, was only 1975 (17th round of the NSS 1961-62) which was below average. Rice along with other cereals contribute 87 per cent of this intake. Protein consumption is less than the National average. Both in rural and urban areas, rice is

consumed almost equally. In both the areas, calorie intake is below the recommended level.

According to different studies in NSS, *viz.*, the Food Habits Study and Tamil Nadu Nutrition Study, the availability of calories was 1962 for the year 1961-62 and 2001 for the year 1970-71. Improvement had been a very little over nearly a decade. Both in rural and urban areas, there was wide inequality in regard to calorie intake among various consumption groups.[6]

As development takes place, bringing in more and more income for the people to consume, the pattern of demand for goods and services undergoes a change from more food and clothing (necessaries) to non-food commodities, and then on to facilities of recreation and comforts (luxuries).

Against this normative position, one can compare the change in the consumption pattern the State had already undergone, referring to the results of the four National Sample surveys (24th, 27th, 32nd and 38th Rounds) conducted in July 1969-June 1970; October 1972- September 1973; July 1977-June 1978 and January 1983-December 1983 respectively.[7]

The trend in consumption expenditure split into food and non-food items separately for rural and urban Tamil Nadu shows that the consumption pattern in both the situation had undergone a change in the right direction away from food items and towards non-food items. The percentage of expenditure on food falling from 74 to 72 and further to 65, the consumption pattern in the rural areas had recorded a slower change than in the urban areas, where the corresponding decline was from 70 to 67 and further to 58 between June 1970 and December 1983. In other words, the process of switchover to non-food items signifying the standard of living catching up was at a faster pace in urban areas. That the rural areas were not lagging much behind the urban areas in this regard, is noteworthy.

Within the food group, the movement away from cereals is faster in rural areas than in urban areas, although the fact remains that in rural food consumption cereals still accounts for a much larger percentage than in the urban situation. A more important observation relates to the expenditure on the other components of the food group. On such important items as pulses, milk and milk products, edible oils, meat, fish, vegetables, etc. the proportion of expenditure had either gone down or stagnated in both the rural and urban situations.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE FOR RURAL AND URBAN TAMILNADU BY COMMODITY GROUPS

(Per cent)

	Rural				Urban			
Item (1)	*24th round* (2)	*27th round* (3)	*32nd round* (4)	*38th round* (5)	*24th round* (6)	*27th round* (7)	*32nd round* (8)	*38th round* (9)
1 All cereals	42.66	41.68	36.03	34.94	27.96	27.57	24.66	23.56
2 Gram	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.07
3 Cereal substitutes	0.25	0.08	0.25	0.09	0.08	0.04	0.07	0.01
4 Pulses	2.88	3.72	3.49	3.41	4.07	3.84	3.62	3.18
5 Milk and milk products	3.20	3.03	3.06	3.32	7.30	6.60	5.97	6.04
6 Edible oils	3.35	3.48	2.91	3.32	4.00	3.68	3.37	3.44
7 Meat, egg, fish	3.57	3.80	3.62	3.74	4.05	3.93	3.61	3.58
8 Vegetables	3.01	3.46	3.90	3.80	4.05	3.60	3.66	3.97
9 Fruits and nuts	1.19	1.38	1.64	1.71	1.86	1.99	1.36	2.09
10 Sugar	1.54	1.78	1.63	1.59	2.19	2.49	1.87	1.66

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
11 Salt	0.23	0.19	0.22	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.09
12 Spices	5.45	4.73	4.50	3.54	4.19	3.62	3.56	2.68
13 Beverages and refreshments	6.43	4.81	4.42	5.38	10.54	9.89	8.89	8.08
Food - Total	73.76	72.14	65.70	65.06	70.14	67.39	60.80	58.45
14 Pan, tobacco, intoxicants	3.04	4.28	3.00	3.39	2.75	2.86	2.00	2.19
15 Fuel and light	7.03	6.80	6.63	6.85	6.87	6.72	6.66	6.52
16 Clothing	5.36	5.79	9.30	7.32	4.22	5.74	7.31	7.20
17 Footwear	0.06	0.03	0.14	0.40	0.19	0.14	0.29	0.60
18 Miscellaneous goods and services	9.75	9.73	11.64	13.70	14.65	15.16	14.58	21.68
19 Durable goods	1.00	1.23	3.59	3.28	0.92	0.99	8.36	3.28
Non-food Total	26.24	27.86	34.30	34.94	29.60	32.61	39.20	41.55
Total expenditure	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Within the non-food group in contrast, there had been a notable increase in the percentage of expenditure on clothing, durable goods and miscellaneous goods and services in both the urban and rural situations. That the urban areas was more or less at a uniform level, accounting for about 7 per cent of the total expenditure, is another noteworthy feature.[8]

Prices : Price levels in India have been under pressure, since November 1969. Inadequate supply of essential commodities, a certain excess of money supply and speculative trading in certain cases have been leading to a continuous rise in prices and pushing up the cost of living. Natural calamities like drought, floods etc. contributed a 5.5 per cent rise in the general index of whole sale prices.[9] Both the Central and State Governments take a series of measures to hold the price line. In order to arrest an upward trend in the price of essential commodities, Tamil Nadu is covered by a network of public distribution system. Under this system, essential commodities such as rice, levy wheat, wheat products, levy sugar, kerosene and palmolin are supplied to the cardholders through fair price shops.

During 1985-86, there were 464 fair price shops in the district. Out of this, 87 shops were under the control of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation while the remaining 377 under the Co-operative Societies. Nearly 86 per cent of the shops are in rural areas.[10]

Consumer Price Index Numbers :[11] Price differences across both time and space clearly affect the monetary value of needs. Index numbers are widely used to adjust the effects of price differences.

Consumer Price Index is used to measure changes in the prices of goods and services. It is a yardstick for revising wages, salaries and other income payments to keep in touch with rising prices, and it is an indicator of the rate of inflation in the economy.

The Consumer Price Index numbers are compiled at present for Industrial workers for Madras city and six mofussil urban centres. Nagercoil is one among them and the index for the centre is worked out by the State Statistics department with 1960 as base year. This arrangement is in vogue since February 1970.

Retail price data are collected from the centre for various commodities under the five broad groups, *viz.* food, fuel and lighting, clothing, house rent and miscellaneous and the price relatives are calculated with reference to the corresponding retail prices in the base year. For working out the group index, the weights as ascertained through Family Budget Surveys in the base year are adopted.

The trend in the consumer price index number for Nagercoil centre, during 1983-84 is reviewed below:-

The Consumer Price Index Number for Nagercoil advanced from 692 in July 1983 to 723 in January 1984 and thereafter it declined and stood at 709 in June 1984. The increase in June 1984 as compared to July 1983 was 2.5 per cent.[12]

Consumer Price Index Number for selected essential items in Rural Areas in Tamil Nadu for the year 1983-84 *(Base Year 1970-71 100) :* Consumer Price Index number for selected essential items in rural areas stood at 320.64 in July 1983. It moved upwards till December 1983 except for a mild fall of 0.88 per cent in October 1983. The index reached the maximum of 332.06 in December 1983. From January 1984 onwards, the index showed a downward trend. During the period from March 1984 to May 1984, the index slightly moved up but again decreased to 320.84 in June 1984.[13]

The Annual average retail prices of Foodgrains and Salt in the district for the year 1983-84 (July to June) [14]

(Prices are in Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	*Name of the Centre*	*Commodities*				
		Rice		*Cholam*	*Cumbu*	*Ragi*
		I sort	*II sort*			
1	Nagercoil	408	403	198	203	206
2	Marthandam	–	418	–	–	233
3	Karungal	–	425	–	–	240
	District Average	408	415	198	203	226

	(1)	Horsegram (2)	Salt (3)
1	Nagercoil	279.00	32.00
2	Marthandam	280.00	35.00
3	Karungal	–	33.00
	District Average	280.00	33.00

Consumer Price Index Number for Nagercoil Centre[15]

(1960 - 100)

Period (1983-84)	*Nagercoil*	
1982	July	584
	August	593
	September	588
	October	591
	November	610
	December	616
1983	January	620
	February	658
	March	644
	April	650
	May	660
	June	685
1983-84–		
1983	July	692
	August	705
	September	700
	October	700
	November	715
	December	715
1984	January	723
	February	710
	March	690
	April	707
	May	706
	June	709

Monthly Average Wholesale Prices of Principal Commodities At Select Centres for 1983–84[16]

Note : (1) All prices are in rupees per quintal of 100 kg. unless otherwise stated.

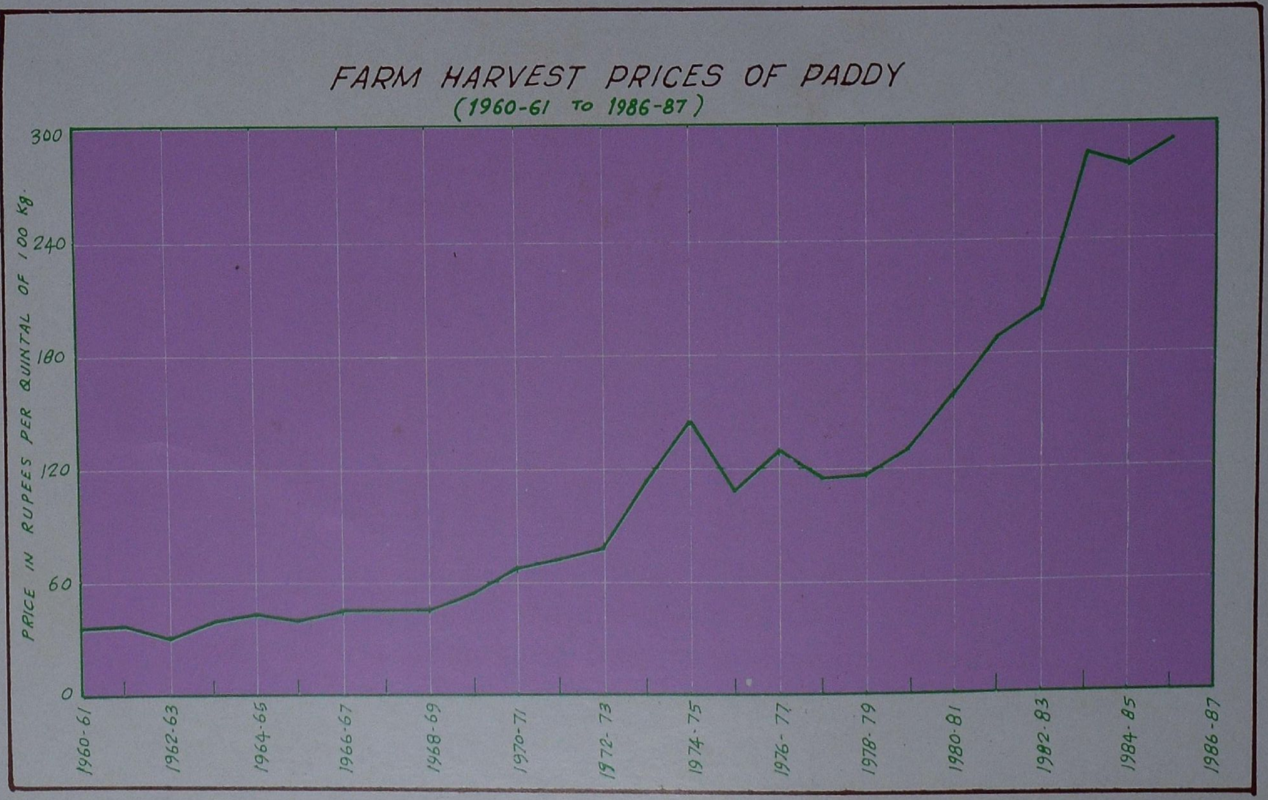
(2) State Average wherever indicated relates to the specified centres only.

Sl. No. (1)	*Centre (2)*	*Name of the Commodity (3)*	*1983 April (4)*	*1983 August (5)*	*1984 March (6)*	*Annual Average (7)*
1	Nagercoil	Paddy I sort Ponni	255.99	307.35	204.66	264.87
2	– Do –	Paddy II sort Ponni	272.33	192.26	216.78	283.03
3	– Do –	Rice I sort Ponni	414.00	432.50	337.00	421.51
4	– Do –	Rice II sort Ponni	402.67	470.00	361.00	416.98
5	– Do –	Tapioca	80.00	95.00	80.00	85.92
6	– Do –	Palm Jaggery	374.00	505.00	456.00	453.77
7	Kuzhi-thurai	Coconut-husked (Price for 1000 nuts)	1640.00	2075.00	3400.00	2462.26
8	Nagercoil	"	1560.00	2000.00	3245.00	2496.70
9	Kuzhithurai	Coconut Oil (Price for 10 kg.)	163.00	214.22	302.75	247.34
10	Nagercoil	Arecanut (Unhushed)	100.00	70.00	100.00	102.17
11	"	Salt	16.00	16.00	28.40	17.17

FARM HARVEST PRICES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

(Prices are in Rs. per quintal of 100 kg.)

Year	Paddy	Rice	Horse-gram	Pepper	Coconut (per 100 nuts)	Arecanuts	Paddy Straw per cart load	Canegur	Chillies	Tapioca
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1960-61	35.65	53.55	40.44	329.80	22.90	89.55	38.40	—	—	—
1961-62	37.90	61.41	41.61	243.80	22.99	99.64	41.50	—	—	—
1962-63	31.38	50.84	49.27	211.46	23.64	34.40	40.32	—	—	—
1963-64	38.45	59.01	50.55	243.74	23..94	23.57	24.09	—	—	—
1964-65	43.18	64.10	56.27	267.43	35.58	36.00	—	—	—	—
1965-66	41.25	73.25	58.72	308.59	45.86	42.00	—	—	—	—
1966-67	45.00	68.51	68.10	353.62	40.51	29.18	NT	—	—	—
1967-68	45.00	76.75	75.58	355.69	41.88	27.87	NT	—	—	—
1968-69	45.00	77.36	82.58	372.92	43.28	28.40	40.45	—	—	—
1969-70	53.90	84.44	79.27	419.08	53.95	33.90	41.00	—	—	—
1970-71	67.95	98.75	65.64	456.72	54.17	39.20	49.17	—	—	—
1971-72	71.99	107.01	74.06	406.37	48.93	30.60	56.55	—	—	—



FARM HARVEST PRICES OF PADDY
(1960-61 TO 1986-87)
PRICE IN RUPEES PER QUINTAL OF 100 Kg.
300
240
180
120
60
0
1960-61
1962-63
1964-65
1966-67
1968-69
1970-71
1972-73
1974-75
1976-77
1978-79
1980-81
1982-83
1984-85
1986-87

FARM HARVEST PRICES OF RICE

(1960-61 TO 1986-87)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1972-73	78.85	109.86	108.21	406.66	67.01	21.83	59.96	–	–	–
1973-74	114.47	164.20	118.95	549.37	95.52	30.36	–	–	–	–
1974-75	145.88	280.40	–	544.58	73.75	29.75	–	–	–	–
1975-76	108.82	155.08	–	1004.20	60.00	28.00	–	–	–	–
1976-77	130.54	198.66	–	1090.00	88.00	64.00	–	–	–	–
1977-78	115.00	158.67	–	1230.00	78.50	42.74	–	–	–	–
1978-79	117.76	154.40	–	1264.00	78.33	48.65	–	–	–	–
1979-80	128.88	187.02	92.00	1325.00	96.67	1043.33	–	–	572.25	26,75
1980-81	157.46	207.34	–	1116.67	114.58	1419.04	–	–	–	23.75
1981-82	187.27	270.42	–	1200.00	116.67	1345.33	–	–	–	23.38
1982-83	202.75	278.51	–	1425.25	114.58	1525.93	–	–	674.37	56.25
1983-84	283.03	316.67	NO	1640.00	172.00	1426.42	49.94	–	610.00	40.42
1984-85	257.40	311.22	260.00	2210.00	170.00	1510.45	35.00	–	1087.50	25.00
1985-86	290.10	357.00	300.00	3250.00	140.71	–	35.00	373.33	826.25	56.50

Report dated 27 April 1987 from the Commissioner of Statistics, Madras

ANNUAL AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF PRINCIPAL FOOD GRAINS AND SALT IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

(Prices are in Rupees Per Quintal of 100 Kg.)

Year (1)	Paddy I sort (2)	Paddy II sort (3)	Rice II sort (4)	Ragi (5)	Horse gram (6)	Salt (7)	Cholam (8)	Cumbu (9)	Varagu (10)
1960-61	39.55	37.54	61.40	44.89	42.97	5.14	37.42	46.37	46.68
1961-62	41.15	40.05	62.05	48.16	43.77	4.99	41.36	45.14	45.59
1962-63	37.79	35.92	60.25	51.24	41.59	4.58	43.04	41.13	44.53
1963-64	41.60	40.62	64.98	51.04	46.08	6.42	42.88	43.94	47.93
1964-65	48.15	46.12	79.63	48.04	48.41	5.84	45.35	43.93	47.07
1965-66	55.46	53.12	89.71	52.47	64.28	4.28	70.55	58.00	65.92
1966-67	NT	71.70	111.05	NT NQ	68.36	4.32	NT NQ	NT NQ	73.78
1967-68	NT	96.04	81.00	NT NQ	77.55	5.88	NT NQ	NT NQ	84.57
1968-69	NT	71.69	117.94	NT NQ	79.59	6.39	NT NQ	NT NQ	78.00
1969-70	NT	84.50	126.57	NT NQ	107.13	5.66	NT NQ	NT NQ	NT
1970-71	70.85	68.92	104.90	NT NQ	85.42	5.15	85.01	NT NQ	64.76
1971-72	77.77	70.91	107.43	NT NQ	97.84	6.34	91.74	NT NQ	70.33
1972-73	85.80	80.20	133.73	NT NQ	09.92	6.54	82.00	NT NQ	79.93

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1973-74	NA	NA	NA NQ	NT NQ	NA	8.00	NA		–
1974-75	NA	NA	273.93	219.09	179.54	12.29	201.00	216.00	NT
1975-76	NA	NA	228.00	NT NQ	161.00	12.00	NT	NT	NT
1976-77	NA	NA	188.00	146.00	135.00	11.00	147.00	NT	NT
1977-78	NA	NA	175.00	135.00	127.00	18.00	NT	NT	NT
1978-79	NA	NA	185.00	116.00	138.00	16.00	100.00	104.00	NT
1979-80	NA	NA	213.00	124.00	141.00	19.00	125.00	125.00	NT
1980-81	NA	NA	271.00	160.00	186.00	21.00	140.00	160.00	NT
1981-82	NA	NA	311.00	196.00	261.00	23.00	198.00	169.00	NT
1982-83	NA	NA	358.00	187.00	280.00	20.00	172.00	174.00	NT
1983-84	NA	NA	415.00	226.00	280.00	33.00	198.00	203.00	NT
1984-85	NA	NA	356.00	227.00	301.00	38.00	169.00	180.00	NT
1985-86	NA	NA	393.00	232.00	348.00	43.00	NT	190.00	NT

Commissioner of Statistics, Madras, dated 27 April 1987

Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers[17]

(Base : 1960 = 100)

Monthly Average – 1986

Nagercoil Centre :–

January	..	776
February	..	780
March	..	770
April	..	776
May	..	791
June	..	808
July	..	826
August	..	831
September	..	835

Trend in Wages of Agricultural and Skilled Labour : Wages are the prices paid for the services of labour. The ability of the workers to buy goods depends on the quantum of wages they get. The level of wages depends on the output of labour and the price of products.

The average rates of daily wages paid to agricultural and skilled labourers in Tamil Nadu are collected every month in respect of 377 selected villages. The villages are selected in such a manner that they reflect as far as possible the condition of agricultural labour in the district as a whole. Agricultural labourers are broadly classified into three groups *viz.,* (i) Field labourers (ii) Herdsman and (iii) Other supporting agricultural labourers. Field labourers comprise of ploughman, sowers and transplanters, weeders as well as reapers and harvesters.[18]

Particulars of wages paid to certain catergories of agricultural labourers in Kanniyakumari district during 1983-84, monthwise, are presented as below :-[19]

	Categories of Agricultural labourers. (1)	Average rate of Daily wages. (2)
		Rs. P.
1	Ploughmen	13.02
2	Sowers and Pluckers of Seedlings –	
	(i) Men	11.18
	(ii) Women	9.89
3	Transplanters and Weeders –	
	(i) Men	9.50
	(ii) Women	8.14
4	Reapers and Harvesters –	
	(i) Men	18.69
	(ii) Women	17.97
5	Other Agricultural labourers –	
	(i) Men	20.49
	(ii) Women	8.13

(1)	(2)
6 Tending Cattle –[20]	RS. P.
(i) Men	6.00
(ii) Women	5.50

The minimum rates of wages fixed by the Government for employment in different occupations in the state are as follows:–

1 Agriculture and ancillary works to Agriculture with effect from 5 April 1983.–

	Class of Employees	*Minimum rates of wages per day*
1	Employees engaged in ploughing with bullocks and ploughs supplied by him.	18.00
2	Employees engaged in ploughing with bullocks and plough not supplied by him.	11.00
3	Employees engaged in harvest of paddy (reaping, carrying to threshing floor, threshing, winnowing, measuring and bagging)	11.00
4	Employees engaged in harvest of Crops other than paddy.	11.00
5	Employees engaged in sowing plucking of seedlings, replanting of seedlings and weeding.	8.00
6	Employees engaged in other agricultural operations (including trimming bunds and fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy- farming and climbing trees).	10.00
7	Attached labourer resident labourer	210.00 (per month)

2. CASHEWNUT INDUSTRY

Minimum rates of wages for employment in Cashewnut (*with effect from* 21 January 1983)

Sl. No.	*Class of employees / employments*	*All inclusive minimum rates of wages*
1	Roasting	Rs.10.00 per 50 bags and thereafter 80 paise per extra bag, subject to a minimum of Rs.7 per day.
2	Shelling	80 paise per kg. of whole kernels shelled including brokens, subject to a minimum of Rs.7.00 per day.
3	Peeling	75 paise per kg. of whole kernels subject to a minimum of Rs.7.00 per day.
4	Selection/Grade	Rs.7.00 per day
5	Checker	Rs.7.00 per day
6	Tinker	Rs.8.00 per day
7	Borma operator	Rs.12.00 per month
8	Packing/filling	Rs.210.00 per month
9	Clerk/Typist/ Cashier/Store Keeper	Rs.250.00 per month
10	Watchman/Peon/ office Attender	Rs.210.00 per month

3. COIR INDUSTRY[21]

(Minimum rates of wages for employment in Coir Industry Manufacturing with effect from 26 February 1986)

Sl. No.	*Class of employees/work (1)*	*Minimum rates of Wages (2)*
		Rs.
I	**Skilled –**	
	(a) Driver	

(1)		(2)
	(b) Machine man	
	(c) Mechanic	
	(d) Operator	450/ p.m.
II	**Semi-skilled –**	
	(a) Driver (Helper)	
	(b) Assistant mechanic	
	(c) De-fibring machine	
	(d) Crusher	400/ p.m.
III	**Un-skilled –**	
	(a) Turbo cleaner	
	(b) Machine cleaner	
	(c) Drying Yard carrier	300/ p.m.
IV	**Piece Rate –**	
	(1) Spliting, transporting of husks to rotting yard and putting it into pits for seaking (for 1000 husks)	Rs. P. 25.00
	(2) Counting of husks (1000 husks)	5.00
	(3) Removal of split husks from the pit (for 1000 husks)	5.50
	(4) Beating of rotted husks (100 rotted husks)	32.00
V	**Muppiri Coir Twisting –**	
	(a) 1.80 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	30.75
	(b) 2.16 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	30.75
	(c) 2.88 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	43.00
	(d) 3.60 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	55.00

(e)	4.32 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	67.50

Where machine cleaned fibre are supplied the maximum rates of wages shall be as follows :–

		Rs. P.
(a)	1.80 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	24.50
(b)	2.16 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	24.50
(c)	2.88 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	34.50
(d)	3.60 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	44.50
(e)	4.32 metre – one bundle of 100 coir each	53.50

VI. Rope making:–

(a)	for converting 33 kg. of fibre into 4.50 cm. ropes	23.75
(b)	for converting 33 kg. of fibre into 5.00 cm. ropes	21.50
(c)	for converting 33 kg. of fibre into 10.00 cm. ropes	18.50
(d)	for converting 33 kg. of fibre into 3.80 cm ropes	24.50

VII. Mat making	20.00	Per day
VIII. Bundling	12.50	"

IX. Fibre bundling –

For 30 or 35 kg. fibre bundling –

(a)	Mechanically operated	Rs.0.80 per bundle
(b)	Manually done	Rs.6.00 per bundle

4. PLANTATIONS

Minimum rates of wages for employment in plantation
(with effect from 19 June 1985)

Class of Employees	*Tea and Rubber Plantations in Kanniyakumari District*	
	Minimum rates of wages per day	
	Basic wages	*D.A.*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*
	Rs. P	Rs. P.
Adults	6.35	4.80
Adolescents	4.40	3.00

5. SOAP MANUFACTORY

The minimum rates of wages, shown below for employment in soap manufactory is effective form 5 May 1983.

Sl. NO. *(1)*	*Class of employees/employment* *(2)*	*Minimum rates of wages* *(3)*
		Rs. P.
1	Foreman/supervisory/Chemist	12.00 per day
2	Boiler/Mixer/Chemist	10.00 per day
3	Cutter	8.00 per day
4	Stamping	7.50 per day
5	Packing –	
	(a) Case	7.00 per day
	(b) Label	0.40 paise (Per gross subject to a guaranteed time rate of Rs.7.00 per day)

5. SOAP MANUFACTORY *(Contd.)*

6	Miscellaneous workers –	
	(a) Inside	7.00 per day
	(b) Out side	7.00 per day
7	Office boy	7.00 per day
8	Van Driver	300.00 per month
9	Clerk	250.00 per month
10	Accountant	300.00 per month
11	Typist	300.00 per month
12	Cashier	300.00 per month
13	Salesman	250.00 per month

Employment : The broadening of employment avenues is the only virtuous and effective way of removing economic disparity. The agrarian sector always has a dominant place in employing more people in agriculture and activities subservient thereto.

The working population of Kanniyakumari district according to 1971 census was 3,50,494 which worked out to 28.7 per cent of its total population. The worker participation ratio of the district was much lower than the State average of 35.8 per cent. The total working population of the district works out to 2.4 per cent of that of the State average.

Occupational pattern : Agriculture being the main occupation of people, covered 60.7 per cent of the total working population. The industrial sector was the next important, which gave employment for 16.9 per cent of the total working population the rest of the working population was engaged in different occupations, as follows.– trade and commerce 7.6 per cent ; transport and communications 2.6 per cent ; and other services 12.2 per cent.[22] Female workers constitute 10.5 per cent of the total working population and nearly one third of them eke out their livelihood by means of agriculture.

Working Population :[23] According to 1971 Census, out of the total working population 84.2 per cent belonged to rural areas and the rest to urban centres. The rural workers accounted for 24.1 per cent of the total rural population and the urban workers accounted for 27 per cent of the total urban population. The 1971 census showed a marginal increase in the total urban working population of the district when compared to 1961 Census.

The population figures of 1981 census are adopted for all official purposes. According to the 1981 census, the main working force of Kanniyakumari district constitutes nearly 3.82 lakhs, accounting for 26.9 per cent of the total population in the district. Among the working force, cultivators and agricultural labourers accounts for about 48 per cent. Almost an equal percentage of the working force is engaged in other occupations like masonry construction, mining, transport, communication, manufacturing other than household industry, livestock, forestry, plantations, orchards and fishing etc. Household industry constitutes 5.5 per cent of the total working population.[24]

The percentage of non-workers to the total population of the district works out to 70.96 per cent. The percentage of non-workers is high in Vilavancode taluk with 73.26 per cent. The percentages of non-workers to total population among the males and females population of the district are 51.56 per cent and 90.66 per cent respectively.[25] Among the taluks, Kalkulam has the maximum percentage of female non-workers i.e., 92.22 per cent.

A comparative study of various categories of workers in rural and urban areas in Kanniyakumari district with that of Tamil Nadu is as follows (1981 Census figures) :–[26]

Sl. No.	*Category*	*Total No. of persons*			*% to total main morkers*	*State*
		Rural	*Urban*	*Total*		
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
I	Total main workers	3.12	0.70	3.82	100.00	189
	1 Cultivators	0.44	0.02	0.46	12.00	55.6
	2 Agricultural Labourers	1.33	0.04	1.37	36.00	59.5
	3 Household Industry	0.16	0.05	0.21	5.50	9.7
	4 Other workers	1.2	0.6	1.8	47.00	64.3
II	Marginal workers	0.27	0.01	0.28	–	16.6
III	Non-workers	8.3	1.7	10.00	–	27.7

It may there be seen that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for nearly one half of the total working popuiation. The work participation ratio is given by the percentage of main workers to total population which works out to 26.8 per cent. This is the lowest in Tamil Nadu. Kanniyakumari is the only district which shows a higher works participation ratio in urban areas (28.7 per cent) than in rural areas (26.6 per cent) for both males and females. Though the overall participation ratio is very low, the male participation ratio is fairly high at 46.2 per cent and that of females is deplorably low at 7.4.

Employment in the organised sector[27] : Employment Market Information Unit of the District Employment office is collecting regularly information about employment in the public sector as well as in the private sector, through what is known as "Establishments Reporting System". All establishments in the public sector and non-agricultural establishments in the private sector employing 25 or more workers are to render the employment returns in a prescribed form every quarter furnishing details such as the number of vacancies occurred during the quarter, notified and filled, the type of personnel that they found to be in short supply etc., This information is collected from the above cotegories of establishments in the public and private sectors under the provisions of Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act 1959. However, the employment information from the smaller establishments employing ten and more persons (but below 25 persons) is being collected on a voluntary basis. The trend from 1968 showed a relatively high level of employment in the public sector and as a percentage to total, it ranged between 51 and 60, whereas during 1978, it was only 47.9. The total number of workers under this sector showed an increase of 3274 workers, i.e. 14.28 per cent in 1978 over the previous year. During the period 1968 to 1978, the absorbing capacity of the public sector in relation to private sector revealed a mixed trend. The concentration of workers in the private sector had been a little over 40 per cent until 1977 and it reached the highest level of 52.7 percént in 1978. The total number of workers employed in both the sectors put together also marked an increase of 30.5 per cent over the previous year (1977).

Industry-wise classification of workers : In agriculture and manufacturing, a great number of workers are employed under the private sector than in the public sector units in the district. In transport and communications, finance and general services, workers participation is considerably greater in the public sector than in the private sector.

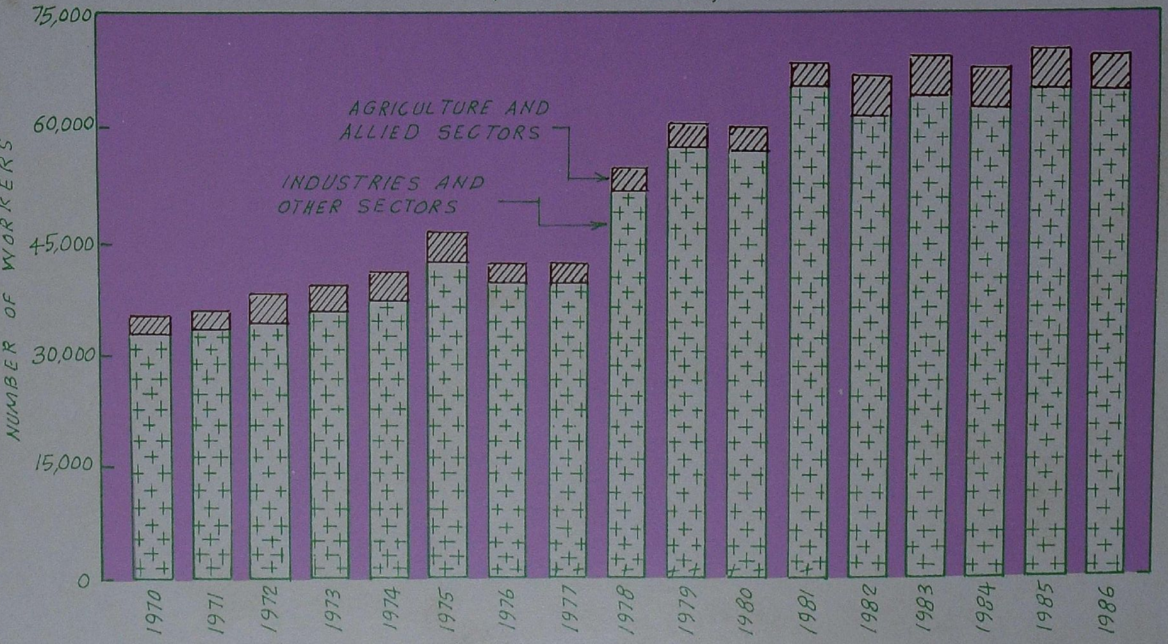
During the period 1968-70 the total number of workers in the district rose from 32,266 to 54,706, registering an average annual growth rate of 5.4 per cent.

Employment of Women in the organised sector : Wide opportunities are there for womenfolk of the district in the organised sector and they are employed in all the categories of employment under public sector. Even under the private sector, they are employed in manufacturing, agriculture, social and community services. In these three categories, the private sector employs a sizeable proportion of the total number of women workers of the district and only a very small proportion is absorbed by the other two categories of the public sector. The Central, State, *Quasi*-Governments and local bodies constitute the public sector and they employ more workers.

Employment Exchange :[28] There is an Employment Exchange functioning at Nagercoil from 21 February 1958, under the control of District Employment Officer.

Particulars relating to the level of employment in agriculture, industries and other avenues (both under private and public sectors) and number of persons placed in different occupations for the period from 1970-1986 are as follows : -[29]

EMPLOYMENT IN (1) AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS (2) INDUSTRIES & OTHER SECTORS
(1970 TO 1986)



Year *(1)*	*Agriculture and allied sectors* *(2)*	*Industries and other sectors* *(3)*	*Total* *(4)*
1970	2894	32867	35761
1971	2981	33716	36697
1972	3269	34861	38130
1973	3472	35985	39457
1974	3713	37696	41409
1975	4092	42438	46530
1976	2625	30697	42322
1977	2604	39646	42250
1978	2949	51857	54806
1979	3118	57301	60419
1980	3068	57045	60113
1981	3032	65135	68167
1982	5194	61356	66550
1983	5399	64022	69421
1984	5453	62276	67729
1985	5084	64857	69951
1986	4385	64862	69247

*** PERSONS PLACED IN DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1970 TO 1986**

Year	Occupations								
	Professionals and Technical	Administration	Clerical and related works	Sales Workers	Craftsmen	Skilled Workers	Unskilled workers employed in offices	Other unskilled workers	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1970-71	242	21	179	21	181	84	49	420	1,197
1971-72	196	17	136	25	152	38	42	413	1,097
1972-73	72	15	101	19	134	47	53	419	860
1973-74	412	69	217	97	182	99	202	190	1,468
1974-75	128	23	104	26	61	49	67	103	561
1975-76	142	1	185	–	–	19	35	211	593
1976-77	194	–	198	8	–	21	48	290	759
1977-78	226	1	29	14	18	10	21	209	528
1978-79	193	10	605	19	81	38	10	200	1,156
1979-80	278	9	191	61	180	38	46	257	1,060

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1980-81	370	6	110	67	112	50	55	181	951
1981-82	308	8	211	39	343	69	212	196	1,386
1982-83	175	12	245	46	195	75	188	194	1,130
1983-84	340	7	260	63	153	113	429	201	1,566
1984-85	336	1	243	49	160	21	157	236	1,193
1985-86	207	–	326	32	149	24	124	202	1,064
1986-87 (up to Dec. 1986)	118	4	137	83	76	59	68	298	843

District Employment Officer, Nagercoil, dated 16 November 1987.

Number of persons unemployed in the district for the period from 1970 to 1986 :-[30]

Year (1)	*Persons unemployed* (2)
1970	21709
1971	23647
1972	23889
1973	24886
1974	27178
1975	30455
1976	34266
1977	39607
1978	40605
1979	40609
1980	48194
1981	54519
1982	49005
1983	53887
1984	59513
1985	73937
1986	86768

Migration : People move from place to place to improve their economic as well as social well-being, and to live in better surroundings. Lack of job opportunities, low wages, and non-monetary benefits are some other factors in decisions to move. Those who are well placed in life also move for reasons of economic incentives with educational and professional achievements with a view to increasing their job opportunities. Age also plays an important role, as is evidenced from the fact that people in their early twenties, have the highest migration rates.

In-migrants : As per 1971 census, in the State, as a whole, 28.56 per cent of population had been enumerated in places outside the place of their birth. Kanniyakumari district has the lowest proportion of 19.58 per cent migrants.[31]

Among the migrants based on birth-place. females dominate in number. Of the 11.77 million migrants in the State, 7.54 million are females, who form 64.12 per cent of the migrants. Female migrants in rural areas form the bulk. In Kanniyakumari district, a little over 69 per cent of the total migrants are females. There may be more of female migrants than male migrants consequent on thier marriage and this may be attributed as one of the important reasons for female domination among migrants. The custom of sending pregnant women to their parents' houses in other villages/towns for delivery is generally yet another reason, for the inflation of migrants.

Migrants are found in large numbers in rural areas than in urban areas. Nearly 63 per cent of the State's migrants are found residing in rural areas. Kanniyakumari district has a high ratio of 78.07 per cent of migrants in rural areas. As per the 1971 census, out of the total population of 12,22,549, the total number of migrants based on place of birth was 2,39,390 which worked out to 19.58 per cent.[32]

Inter-District Migration :[33] Migrants of a particular district includes (i) in-migrants from all other districts of the State into that district, and (ii) out-migrants from this district to all other districts in the State.

As per 1971 Census, Kanniyakumari district had 23,498 in- migrants and 54,647 out-migrants representing a net migrants of (-) 31,149.

Government Programmes : Development of a district mainly lies in rural development. Rural development understandably depends on people's participation in developmental activities. Hence, the development process was initiated and expectedly all the plans as well as ensuing programmes have been given pride of place to the rural sector. Starting with the concept of Community Development to Integrated Rural Development Programme, all have incorporated tackling rural poverty as their guiding spirit.

The Rural Welfare Scheme, more popularly known as the Firka Development Scheme was implemented in 1946 by the then Madras Government.[34] The scheme aimed at local self-help and also at reviving and rejuvenating village life. The scheme, in a way, can rightly be claimed to be forerunner of the Community Development Programme. The Community Development Programme was launched in the State in 1952 which gained momentum during the second five year plan period.[35] Under the programme, the

efforts of the people were united with those of the Government authorities to improve the economic and social conditions of communities and to integrate these communities into the life of Nation.

The Community Development Programme underwent a change with the introduction of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1958. It was extended in the form of National Extension Service. In the Second Five Year Plan, the National Extension Service was envisaged as a positive force in bringing out an Integrated Rural Society and expanding rural economy. The National Extension Service and Community Projects represented primarily an agency for carrying a programme of development and reforms to the people, particularly rural folk.

In Kanniyakumari district, Killiyoor and Melpuram blocks in Vilavancode taluk were selected for implementing the National Extension Services in 1957. A Carpentry Training Centre was started in the Community Development areas to train artisans in Rajakkamangalam in 1959. As a result of sustained and strenuous efforts, the programme had undergone considerable improvement.[36]

In order to uplift the economic condition of the poor and downtrodden in the field of agriculture, the Government of India introduced the Small Farmers Development Agency. The Small Farmers Development Agency was started in Kanniyakumari district during the year 1975-76 which was constituted under the Societies Registration Act and registered as a Society. The nomenclature of the Agency was changed as District Rural Development Agency (D.R.D.A.) with effect from 1 April 1981.[37]

From the commencement of the Fifth Five Year Plan, the strategy was slightly modified with more emphasis on Integrated Rural Development. In additon to the Small Farmers Development Programmes, Integrated Rural Development Programmes were also introduced in the district during 1978-79. The Integrated Rural Development Programmes include new schemes such as Fisheries Development, Rural Artisans Programme, training under Training for Rural Youth Self Employment Scheme (TRYSEM) etc. Hence the Drought Prone Area Programme, from a relief oriented concept in the Fourth Five Year Plan had undergone qualitative change and emerged into IRDP, from the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Subsequently, during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, many poverty alleviation programmes namely National Rural Employment

Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme TRYSEM are being implemented with the basic objective of uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor and the downtrodden.

These schemes are implemented by the Kanniyakumari District Rural Development Agency at Nagercoil.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) : The concept of integrated rural development aims at eradicating poverty by providing opportunity for gainful employment and puts emphasis on improvement in the quality of life of the rural poor.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme is implemented in all the nine blocks comprising 81 revenue villages of Kanniyakumari district. About 50 per cent of the population of the district is living below the poverty line. In each block, 600 families are to be covered under the programme and out of these 300 are to be covered through agriculture and related activities, 150 families through rural industries and the remaining 150 families under rural services, business enterprises, etc. The allocation of fund per block is a little over Rs.11 lakhs and this is to be equally shared between the Central and State Governments.[38] The programme intends to provide special priority to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other poorest of the poor of the rural society. The selected families could receive up to Rs.3,000 by way of subsidy and the limit of subsidy for scheduled tribes families is Rs 5,000.

The assets provided to the selected households are financed through a mix of Government subsidies and institutional credit i.e., loan. The capital cost of the assets is subsidised to the extent of 25 per cent for small farmers, $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent for the marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans and 50 per cent for the scheduled tribes.

Under the milch animal scheme, Adi-Dravida families are provided with $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent under IRDP and $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent under Special Component Plan and thereby the total subsidy comes to 50 per cent. For other schemes they are eligible for $33\frac{1}{3}$ subsidy only. The small farmers are eligible for 25 per cent of subsidy only.[39]

Government have fixed the physical target of 4215 families and the financial limit at Rs.72.05 lakhs for the year 1985-86 under I.R.D.P. Totally, 5008 families have been benefited at a cost of Rs.62.80 lakhs.

This include 1809 old families of 1980-81 and 1981-82, who received second dose of assistance.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) - (Centre and State Scheme) : The food for works programme was introduced in Tamil Nadu in the year 1979-80 for generating employment in rural areas and creating durable Community assets in order to strengthen the rural infrastructure for social, economic development and also in order to improve the living standard of the rural folk. It has been suitably modified and restructured in the name of NREP and made a part of the Sixth Five Year Plan. The expenditure is shareable between the State and the Centre equally.

Types of works taken up under the programme are as follows : -[40]

1. Afforestation and social forestry ;
2. Drinking water wells, community irrigation, group housing and land development projects for SC/STs ;
3. Construction of village tanks.
4. Minor irrigation works;
5. Soil and water conservation and land reclamation;
6. Rural roads; and
7. School buildings, Balwadis, Panchayat Office and Community Centres, etc.

Originally the objective of the "Food for Work Programme" was to utilise surplus foodgrain stocks of the Government, for generating additional employment in rural areas.

Massive Programme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for increasing Agricultural Production : It is a centrally sponsored scheme. The programme has been introduced in Tamil Nadu during 1983-84 to benefit about 600 families of small and marginal farmers in each block and provide financial assistance of Rs.5,00 lakhs per block. This programme consists of subsidy-*cum*-loan assistance for minor irrigation and land development works. The expenditure is to be shared equally by Central and State Governments. A subsidy of 25 per cent is given to small farmers and $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent to the marginal farmers.

This programme is being implemented through the blocks. During the year 1985-86, 70 loans were sanctioned under the Minor Irrigation Scheme, involving a subsidy of Rs.1.92 lakhs in this district. Under Land Development Scheme, 684 loans were sanctioned, involving a subsidy of Rs.17.90 lakhs, in this district.[41]

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) : The RLEGP was introduced from 15 August 1983, as a poverty alleviation programme. The objectives are improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless with a view to providing guarantee of employment to at least one member for every landless household up to 100 days in a year, and creating durable assets for strengthening the infrastructure, so as to meet the growing requirements of the rural economy. Under the programme, works such as rural link roads, group housing for Adi-dravidars and for weaker sections, public convenience in rural areas, social forestry schemes etc. are implemented. [42] Each labourer has been provided Rs.8 (1 kg. rice, 2 kg. wheat and cash Rs.3.15) per day as wages.

During 1985-86, 31 link roads were completed under the link Road Scheme, 550 houses for Adi-Dravidars and 174 houses for weaker sections were completed under the Group Housing Scheme, 110 public conveniences allotted under Rural Sanitary schemes and 5,44,000 seedlings were raised under the Social Forestry Scheme, in this district. The Government allotted a sum of Rs.38.80 lakhs under this programme, during 1985-86 of which an amount of Rs.34.41 lakhs was spent for that period.

Biogas : It refers to the gas obtained by digestion of cowdung and agro-wastes (biomass) with water. Biogas serves twin purpose of providing 'fuel and fertilizer value. The programme is effectively implemented in this district.

Training for Rural Youth Self Employment (TRYSEM) Scheme : The National Programmes of TRYSEM is one of the important programmes implemented by the Government for bringing out qualitative change in the life of the rural poor. It was launched on 15 August 1979 with the objective of identifying the rural youth in the age group of 18-35, belonging to the poor families and provide them skill training in identified trades with the help of which they may be able to set up an enterprise of self employment. For imparting training, institutions, like the ITI are fully

involved. This programme is being implemented in this district in an organised manner.

SCHEME FOR PROVIDING SELF EMPLOYMENT TO EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

A scheme for providing new opportunities for productive gainful self employment to the educated unemployed youth was introduced by the Government of India from 1983 onwards. The objective of the scheme is to encourage the educated unemployed youth to undertake self employment ventures in industry, service and business through the provision of a package of assistance. The scheme covers all areas of the country excepting cities with more than one million population as per 1981 census.[43]

The District Industries Centre at Nagercoil functions as noddle agency. A task force was constituted under the General Manager, DIC comprising representatives of SISI, Officer Lead Bank, District Employment officer and representatives of Commercial banks. The selection of beneficiary is done by the task force. It recommends a composite loan not exceeding Rs.25,000 and this can be increased up to Rs.35,000 depending upon the venture. For ventures in business the maximum assistance given is Rs.15,000 ; Rs.25,000 for Service Avocations and Rs.35,000 for Industries are granted under this Scheme. In Kanniyakumari district, the scheme is implemented with the cooperation of Commerical Banks.

During the year 1983-84, 1245 cases have been recommended by the Task force, involving credit to the tune of Rs.150.36 lakhs. The commercial banks have extended assistance to 877 persons with the financial assistance to the tune of Rs.103.27 lakhs.

Sl. No. (1)	Sector (2)	RECOMMENDED No. (3)	RECOMMENDED Amount (4)	SANCTIONED No. (5)	SANCTIONED Amount (6)	DISBURSED No. (7)	DISBURSED Amt. (8)
				(AMOUNT IN LAKHS)			
				1983-84			
1	Industries	618	74.41	453	51.50	453	51.50
2	Service	280	41.91	202	28.96	202	28.96
3	Business	347	34.04	222	22.81	222	22.81
	Total	1245	150.36	877	103.27	877	103.27
				1984-85			
1	Industries	293	55.38	197	38.08	144	23.60
2	Service	194	28.89	153	19.95	68	11.32
3	Business	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	487	84.27	350	58.03	212	34.92
				1985-86			
1	Industries	427	78.07	247	45.11	207	31.65
2	Service	131	14.19	52	8.20	42	6.46
3	Business	243	24.46	119	11.74	94	8.73
	Total	801	116.72	418	65.05	343	46.84
				1986-87			
1	Industries	349	78.86	205	50.03	168	37.97
2	Service	147	25.62	120	20.20	89	14.95
3	Business	153	17.68	105	13.30	81	9.77
	Total	649	122.16	430	83.53	338	62.69
				1987-88			
1	Industries	260	56.83	139	28.31	124	24.76
2	Service	36	5.62	18	2.28	17	2.21
3	Business	45	5.85	29	3.75	17	3.65
	Total	341	68.30	186	34.34	169	30.62

The Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras – Report dated 10 October 1988.

SELF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR URBAN POOR (SEP UP)

The Government of India have formulated a programme for providing self employment to the poorer section of the society living in Metropolitan/Urban and Semi Urban Centres. The objective of the programme is to enable eligible families living below subsistence level in the above areas to undertake self employment with the help of subsidy and bank credit. The Government of India have stipulated that the applicant who comes forward to avail the facilities should be resident of the area and that his monthly income should not exceed Rs.600 per month. If he satisfies this rule, he will be eligible to get a maximum credit assistance of Rs.5000– depending upon the ventures. The target is fixed according to the population of the area and one for every 300 to be selected and given financial assistance. This includes 30 per cent of Scheduled Caste/Sheduled Tribe beneficiary also. The responsibility for effective implementation of the scheme has been fixed on banks. During 1986-87, four municipal centres viz. Nagercoil, Colachel, Padmanabhapuram, and Kuzhithurai were selected.

The total target for the district for 1986-87 was 771 as per the 1981 population census :–

Sl. No.	*Name of Municipality*	*No. of Wards*	*Target fixed for identify-ing eligible beneficiaries*	*Population as per 1981 Census*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1	Nagercoil	36	572	1,71,648
2	Kuzhithurai	19	61	18,427
3	Colachel	20	77	23,129
4	Padmanabhapuram	20	61	18,240

Indian Overseas Bank was the convenor for Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram centres.[44] Similarly State Bank of India and Canara Bank are the Convenors for Colachel and Kuzhithurai centres respectively.

During 1986-87, 790 applications were received as against the target of 771 and sanction was accorded in respect of 670 cases, but amount

could be disbursed by financial institutions only for 664 beneficiaries as particularised below :–

Sl. No. (1)	Centre (2)	Target (3)	Appli-cations received (4)	SANCTIONED No. (5)	SANCTIONED Amount (6)	DISBURSED No. (7)	DISBURSED Amount (8)
					(Rs. in Lakhs)		
1	Nagercoil	572	576	494	15.27	492	14.90
2	Colachel	77	77	77	3.66	74	3.51
3	Padmanabhapuram	61	76	55	1.64	54	1.63
4	Kuzhithurai	61	61	44	1.68	44	1.68
		771	790	670	22.25	664	21.72

Banks : Banks have been extending their credit flow for the benefit of the weaker sections of society bearing in mind the uplift of these sections. Thus the banks have taken efforts in fulfilling the objectives of the Government.

Assistances for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the Massive Programme, IRDP, Self-employment of Educated Unemployed Youth, Sericulture Development and other schemes under the new 20 point programme. Bio-gas Development Programme and also House Construction Programme through Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (THHADCO) are provided for, by the Commercial banks.

Twenty Point Programme :[45] In August 1986, the Government of India announced a 'restructured' 20 Point Programme, renewing its commitment to the eradication of poverty, raising of productivity, reducing income inequalities, eliminating social and economic disparities and improving the quality of life. The new programme known as 'Twenty Point Programme 1986' has been in operation, since April 1, 1987.

The war on poverty is the first priority. In the past 10 years, more than ten crores of poor and downtrodden have been raised above the poverty line. The ultimate goal is to remove poverty and create fuller employment. The new Twenty Point Programme, which is the cutting edge of the plan for the poor, is categorised as below :–

1 Attack on rural poverty.
2 Strategy for rain-fed agriculture.
3 Better use of irrigation water.
4 Bigger harvests.
5 Enforcement of land reforms.
6 Special programmes for rural labour.
7 Clean drinking water.
8 Health for all.
9 Two child norm.
10 Expansion of education.
11 Justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes.
12 Equality for women.
13 New opportunities for youth.
14 Housing for the people.
15 Improvements of slums.
16 New strategy for forestry.
17 Protection of the Environment.
18 Concern for the Consumer.
19 Energy for the villages.
20 A responsive administration.

The nationalised banks play vital role towards effective implementation of 'New Twenty Point Programme 1986'.

Achievements under various development schemes during the year 1984-1985 [46]

Sl. No. (1)	Name of Scheme (2)	Achievement (3)
		(AMOUNT IN RS.)
1	Social Education	15,994
2	Maintenance of grant for maternity centres	5,00,000
3	Maintenance of grants for dispensaries	5,400
4	Additional drugs	1,206
5	Prevention of starvation death	2,200
6	Fisheries Schemes	1,32,340
7	Local Cess Matching Surcharge Grant	45,00,000
8	House tax Matching Grant	4,66,892
9	Maintenance of Hand pumps	50,000
10	Rural Water Supply	6,00,000
11	Special Rural Employment Programme grants	89,90,000
12	U.A.N.R.E.P. grant	94,06,000
13	Local Roads grant	17,62,155
14	Link Roads	5,00,032
15	282 Public Health Drought relief grant	4,000
16	Minor Irrigation	4,50,000
17	A.J.U.D. Land Development	72,000
18	J.B. IRDP	36,00,000

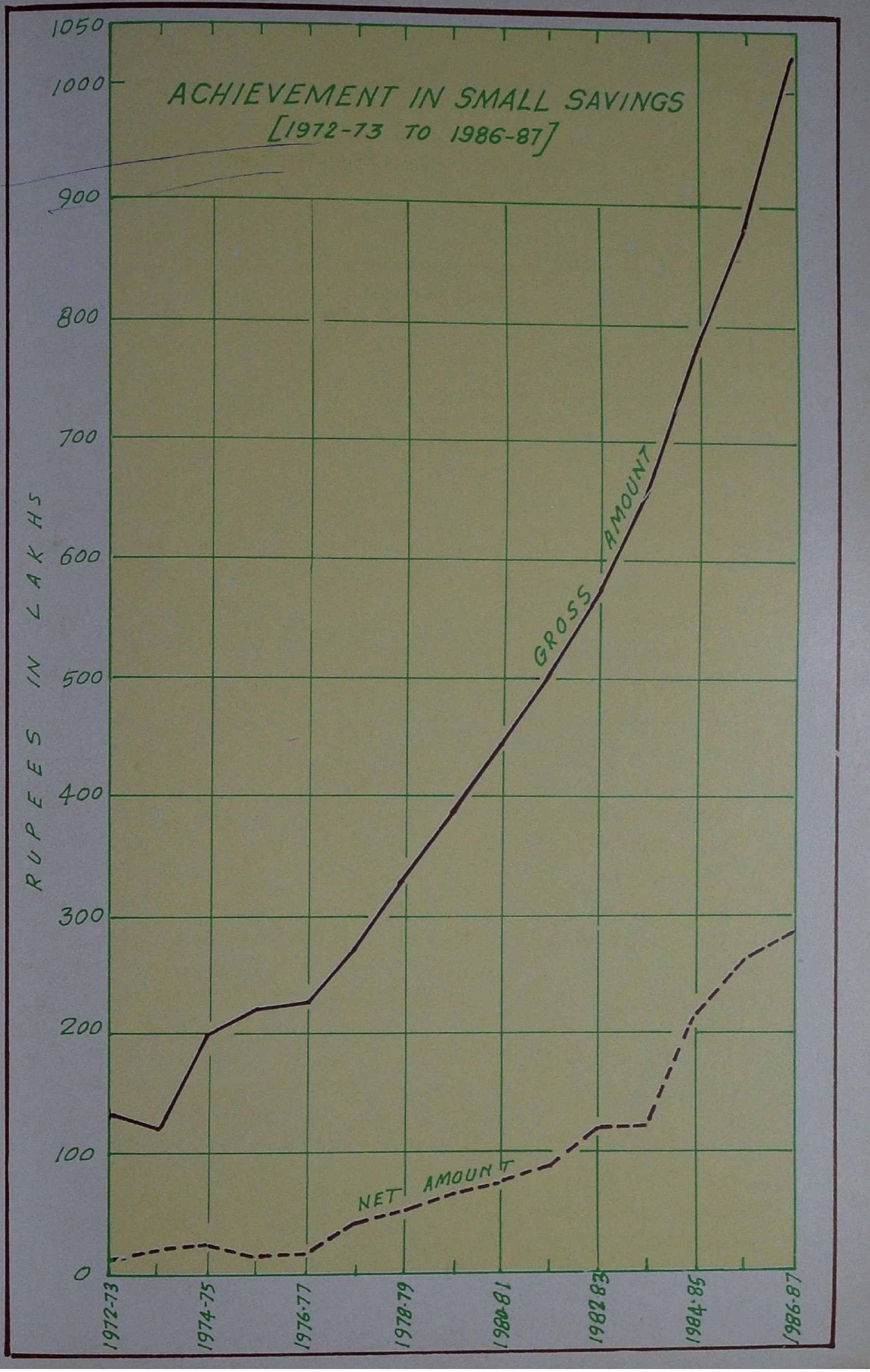
There are relatively large differences between rural and urban areas in the income levels of the resident population. The rural part has a disproportionate concentration of the poor, while the people in urban area are relatively well-off. These income differences have been attributed to the underlying socio-economic condition of the population.

Income variations between rural and urban areas are difficult to interpret. In particular, these income differentials reflect real position in levels of well being only to the extent that they are not offset by cost of living differences. As the district is predominantly farm-oriented a major share of its income is received from agricultural operations.

The income of the district estimated by industries origin at 1973 prices was as follows :–[47]

District Income – Estimates by Industries Origin
(at current prices)

Sectors		(RUPEES IN LAKHS)
I	Agriculture and allied activities –	
	(1) Agriculture	3,170
	(2) Animal Husbandry	631
	(3) Forestry	34
	(4) Fishery	558
	Total I	4,393
II	Mining and Manufacturing –	
	(5) Mining and quarrying	1
	(6) Factory and quarrying	65
	(7) Electricity	134
	(8) Construction	145
	(9) Small enterprises	1,267
	Total II	1,612
III	Commerce, Transport and Communication –	
	(10) Communication	19
	(11) Railways	–
	(12) Organised Banking and Insurance	47
	(13) Other Commerce and Transport	1,141
	Total III	1,207
IV	Other Services –	
	(14) Government Administration	381
	(15) Profession, Liberal Arts Domestic Services	1,341
	(16) House Property	180
	Total IV	1,902
Net-Domestic Product at factory cost		9,114
Total Estimated Population (in lakhs)		12.3
Per capita net-Domestic Produce (in Rupees.)		741


ACHIEVEMENT IN SMALL SAVINGS
[1972-73 TO 1986-87]
RUPEES IN LAKHS
1050
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
GROSS AMOUNT
NET AMOUNT
1972-73
1974-75
1976-77
1978-79
1980-81
1982-83
1984-85
1986-87

Small Savings : To accelerate the process of growth in economy, the country should mobilise more financial resources from within to boost the level of investment. The growth process makes it imperative to mobilise savings in a country. The savings, thus mobilise, is utilised to finance various developmental activities.

The details of investment under small savings from 1972-73 to 1986-87 are as follows :–

Small Savings Collection In Kanniyakumari District
From 1972-73 To 1986-87

Year (1)	*Target Fixed (2)*	*Gross (3)*	*Net (1)*
		(Rupees In Lakhs)	
1972-73	Not furnished	133.44	12.38
1973-74	"	120.56	19.50
1974-75	"	22.72	13.74
1975-76	"	227.97	15.76
1976-77	"	200.33	24.95
1977-78	"	274.78	40.29
1978-79	"	329.99	49.44
1979-80	"	387.81	63.60
1980-81	75	444.43	74.39
1981-82	75	505.27	87.98
1982-83	75	576.08	121.69
1983-84	100	660.81	123.17
1984-85	155	785.03	213.62
1985-86	300	883.68	265.84
1986-87	436	1,028,23	285.56

The gross amount which was only Rs.133.44 lakhs in 1972-73 has increased to Rs.1,028.23 lakhs in 1986-87, showing an eight fold increase, within a span of 15 years. The net amount also has increased from Rs.12.38 lakhs during 1972-73 to Rs.285.56 lakhs in 1986-87, an increase by 24 times. This really reflects the sense of thrift developed in the minds of the people of Kanniyakumari district.

Other Economic Indicators :[48] Based on the physiography, the district can be divided into three natural divisions of mountainous terrain, low lands and undulating valley. On the whole, the region has gentle, but definite slope towards west from east. This gentle slope and natural divisions with its vegetation provides an enchanting sight. The paddy fields of the low lands are mixed with large patches of coconut groves and tapioca fields of the valleys. The sands of the sea coast are rich in mineral wealth, while the coast as such provides a natural environment.

Rubber plantation occupies a very important place in the economy of the district. It is carried out in an area of 12,606 hectares in the district, as against 12,716 hectares in the State.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the district. A large section of the workers in the district accounting for 48.44 per cent are cultivators and agricultural labourers. Among rural workers, 56.85 per cent are cultivators and agricultural labourers. Paddy is the most important crop in the district. Tapioca is also cultivated in large areas.

Land Use : Out of the total area of 1,44,249.98 hectares in the district, the total cultivable area is 60.86 per cent of which 38.9 per cent is irrigated.

Power : It is noteworthy that Kanniyakumari is one of the few districts in the country, where all villages and towns are electrified .

Fisheries : Fishing is an important source of livelihood in the district. The maritime district of Kanniyakumari has a coast line of 68 km. covering west and east coasts. There are about 44 villages along the Kanniyakumari coast, in which fishing is predominant. The total population of the fisherfolk as in 1986 was 1,14,897. About 510 mechanised and 12,737 non-mechanised fishing crafts are available in the district. This total annual average catch of fish is around 62,400 tonnes which contributes approximately 25 per cent of the total catch of the State.[49]

With a view to modernise the fishing and thereby improve socio-economic conditions of the fisher-folk, mechanised fishing boats and nylon twine for fabrication of nets were supplied to them at subsidised cost commencing from the year 1957. From 1 April 1974, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation has taken up the task of supplying

mechanised boats. Now inland fishing is encouraged through the Fish Farmers Development Agency.

Under socio-economic scheme, the important scheme is Fishermen Group Accident Insurance Scheme and all the members of Fishermen Co-operative Societies are brought under the scheme. The annual premium of Rs.19/- is equally shared by Central and State Governments. The Insurance Company pays Rs.15,000/- to the fishermen families in case of death, due to accident and Rs.7,500/- in case of any disability.

Under socio-economic measures, the State Government help the families of the fishermen, by giving Rs.5,000/- as an aid for those who die in the sea, while fishing. Houses have been constructed and allotted to the fishermen, free of cost.[50]

Industries : There were no major and medium industries during 1950's in the district. The district saw some medium industries *viz.*, mineral industry, spinning units, cashewnut unit after 1960. Cashew is an important commercial and foreign exchange crop in the district. The Cashew Kernel Processing Industry has a distinct place in the industrial map of Kanniyakumari district. There were 171 small scale cashew kernel processing units in 1980. Coir industry is popular in the district. There is a Government Coir School at Eathamozhi, which imparts training to young people.

The rubber plantation industry occupies an important place in the economy of the district. The industry provides employment for a large labour force. Rubber plantations have spread along the western ghats in Vilavancode, Kalkulam and Thovalai taluks. Rubber available here is of a superior quality. Tamil Nadu stands second in the production of quality rubber in the country and Kanniyakumari district takes this pride.

As per 1981 census, there were 223 registered factories providing employment to 48096 workers. Out of this, 160 units i.e. about 72 per cent have been engaged in manufacturing food products. Other notable units are repairing works, manufacture of paper products, wood products, rubber etc.

Under Cottage industries, handloom industries, coir and honey processing are popular. Household industry is also a prominent industry in the district. It absorbs nearly 4.47 per cent of the total working force. Stone work industry is one of the flourishing industries in the district.[51]

Population : Total population of the district in 1971 was 12,22,549 which increased to 14,23,399 in 1981. The decennial growth rate of population between1971 and 1981 was 16.43 which was 22.63 per cent between 1961 and 1971. Density of population was 843 per sq.km. in 1981 as against the State figure of 372 per sq.km.[52]

Literacy :[53] The literacy rate of Kanniyakumari district works out to 63.85 per cent as against the literacy rate of 46.76 per cent of Tamil Nadu. The rural literacy rate stands at 61.80 per cent against the Tamil Nadu rural literacy rate of 38.56 per cent. The urban literacy rate of the district is 73.60 per cent as against 63.45 per cent which is the urban literacy rate of Tamil Nadu.

Availability of other amenities : School facilities are available in 80 villages, out of 87 villages in the district, which indicate that 91.95 per cent of the villages avail of educational facilities. The medical, post and telegraph facilities are available in 73 and 76 villages respectively, the percentages being 83.91 and 87.36. It is noteworthy that all the villages have been provided with drinking water facilities. More than 90 per cent of the villages have the amenities of communication *viz.,* pucca road and power supply.

Financial Institutions : IOB is the lead bank of the district. The Bank prepared credit plans containing bankable schemes for the development of the various sectors of the district's economy. It aimed to increase the employment opportunities to the weaker sections of the society and to provide better living conditions for the downtrodden, by increasing their income.

The principal financial institutions are commercial banks, the Kanniyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Limited and the Tamil Nadu Co-operative State Land Development Bank, besides, the State Financial Corporation, like the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation, the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation, and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (SIPCOT).

There are 115 branches of Commercial Banks operating in 63 centres. The averages population covered by each branch is 12339.

COMMUNICATIONS : Roads .– Kanniyakumari district has an excellent network of roads. The trunk road from Madras to Nagercoil and then to Trivandrum enters the district near Aralvoimozhi and passes

through important places such as Padmanabhapuram, Azagiapandipuram and Kuzhithurai.

Posts and Telecommunications :[54] As regards the Postal Services, Tamil Nadu Postal Circle is one of the major postal circles in India. The district is served with two head post offices and 75 sub-post offices. Besides 30 extra-departmental sub-post offices and 136 extra-departmental branch post offices are also functioning in this district. There are 458 departmental and 525 extra-departmental employees. All the villages in this division are served daily. There are 145 urban and 986 rural letter boxes in the district. Pictorial cancellation of Vivekananda Rock is provided for articles posted in the special letter box at post office, Kanniyakumari. Similary, the district has a good telecommunication system. The capital investment on Telecom assets in the district during 1986 was about Rs.10.00 crores. About 513 personnel are working in this department.

Broadcast : A Radio Station and TV Relay Centre function here from 30 October 1984 and 8 August 1987 respectively.

Railways :[55] The district is connected by broad gauge railway line from Trivandrum and Tirunelveli (*via*) Nagercoil. The Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Kanniyakumari broadgauge section was opened on 16 April 1979 and Nagercoil-Tirunelveli section on 2 April 1981. The longest rail route in India i.e., from Kanniyakumari to Jammu-Tawi originates from Kanniyakumari railway station. The line serves the highlands of the extreme south with tea and rubber estates, the mid lands flooded with agricultural fields of paddy, tapioca and cashewnuts and the coastal strip with its fishing and coir industries. The route has emerged as important broad gauge rail traffic, to places in the north. The route is really a boon to thousands of tourists and pilgrims.

Tourism is a dynamic factor of social progress and a great vehicle of knowledge and ideas; which fosters goodwill among people. It is an important foreign exchange earner. The Government of Tamil Nadu have proudly declared tourism as an industry. Kanniyakumari district has good potential for tourism. As a land of colourful contrasts, it offers the tourists and visitors an opportunity to enjoy art and architecture with modern projects of Science and Technology.[56]

The grandeur of the western ghats, the ancient Suchindrum temple, the great historical monuments *viz.*, the Padmanabhapuram palace,

memorials of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, fascinating beach, the varied flora and fauna, plantation, all these make Kanniyakumari a desired destination for domestic and international tourists.

The pleasant climate, the advantageous physiography, combined with fertile soil, fair distribution of monsoons and the coast line adorn the district and add to its beauty and prosperity.

Selected-Economic Indicators : The State Planning Commission has furnished selected Socio-economic indicators in the district under various spheres; the details, of which are given in the table below:-

	Socio-Economic Industries (1)	*Kanniyakumari (2)*	*Tamil Nadu (3)*
1	Area (in sq. km)	1,684.4	130.058
2	Population (000) —	1423	48408
	(a) Male	717	24488
	(b) Female	706	23920
	(c) Rural	1178	32456
	(d) Urban	245	15952
3	Literacy (per cent) –	63.9	46.8
	(a) Male	68.6	58.3
	(b) Female	59.1	35.0
4	Working Population (000) –		
	(i) Cultivators	46	5559
	(ii) Agricultural Labourers	145	6038
	(iii) Manufacturing, Household & Service Industry	17	898
	(iv) Other workers –	185	6531
	Total : Main Workers	393	19026
	Marginal workers	20	1173
	Non-workers	1010	28209
5	Rainfall – Normal (in mm) –		
	(i) South West Monsoon	546.2	308.4
	(ii) North East Monsoon	564.0	447.4

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	(iii) Winter period	57.0	50.1
	(iv) Hot weather period	312.5	139.1
6	Net area sown (hect) (in mm) –	82201	5690.892
	Area sown More than once	25017	1127.903
	Total cropped area	107218	6818.795
7	No. of operational holdings (in '000) (1976-77)	301	61111
	Area of operational holdings (in 000 hect.)	87	7629
	Average size of holding (in hect.)	0.29	1.25
Agriculture :			
8	Paddy productio.. (1986–87)—		
	(i) Area ('000 hect.)	31	1955
	(ii) Yield (kg. hect.)	1912	2728
	(iii) Production ('000 tonnes)	59	5333
9	Animal Husbandry (July 1982)—		
	(i) Total livestock	2,02,615	2,61,86091
	(ii) Total Poultry	4,65.067	1,82,83720
10	Dairy (1986–89)–		
	Milk Production ('000 tonnes)	45.6	3294.6
11	Industries (1983–84)—		
	(i) No. of factories	286	12478
	(ii) All workers	33763	706940
	(iii) Value added (Rs. Lakhs)	728	167689
2	Banking (June '87) —		
	(i) No. of Banks	114	3939
	(ii) Deposits (Rs. in lakhs)	12904	684318
	(iii) Advances	7554	653744

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	(iv) Credit Deposit ratio (per cent)	59 per cent	96 per cent
	(v) Population served per bank	13667	133033
13	Lead Bank (Allocation 1986) —		
	(i) Agriculture & allied activities (Rs. in lakhs)	1993	61063
	(ii) Small Scale Industries	238	11823
	(iii) Services	591	16465
	Total	2822	96351
14	Employment (31 March 1987) [57]—		
	Public Sector (000)	36	1477
	Private Sector (000)	32	690
	Total	68	2167
15	**Electricity** (31 March 86) –		
	(i) No. of villages	66	15735
	(ii) No. of villages electrified	66	15715
	(iii) No. of pumpset energised	2344	1074184
	(IV) No. of street lights	32170	862893

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CHAPTER – 10

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Kautilya compares a Government to a chariot and the various departments to its wheels and says that a single wheels cannot move a chariot. Hence, from ancient times it has been felt that various machineries are necessary to run the Government smoothly.

The area of the present Kanniyakumari district had been under the sceptres of the Ayis, the Pandyas the Cholas, the Nayaks and the Venad kings. The remarkable aspect is that it had been under monarchical rule upto 1949 (i.e.) till the accession of Travancore State to Indian Union.

General Administration in Ancient days : In ancient days as in other parts of South India or we can say even the World, hereditary monarchy was the principal form of Government. Disputed successions and civil wars were not unknown; the king was an autocrat but the advices of the ministers, poets and other eldermen of the royal family prevailed. The sphere of the State's activity was, however, limited and in a society where respects for customs was deep-rooted, even the most perverse of autocrats could not have done much harm; indeed, it must be said that the general impression left on the mind by the literature of the age is one of contentments on the part of the people, who were proud of their kings and loyal to them[1]

The king was regarded as a model citizen. He was, therefore, obliged to maintain high standards; in other words, he had to follow the maxim "Ceaser's wife should be above suspicion". The subjects placed the sovereign next to the Lord. Liberal patronage, tolerance towards religion and encouragement of arts and letters, were the essence of the king's rule. The kings held a daily court *(நாளவை)*.

There were also gradations among kings. Victory of a king against seven kings lent him a superior status, which the victor marked by wearing a garland made out of the Crowns of the seven vanquished rulers. The most powerful king was expected to undertake a 'Dig Vijaya' , which meant expeditions to conquer in all directions. [2]

Administration : As an administrator, he was assisted by "Sutram" (சுற்றம்) which comprised most of Brahmins . These 'Sutram', advised the King on general administrative matters. Besides, the king held a Sabha or Manram (the highest court of justice) in the capital.[3]

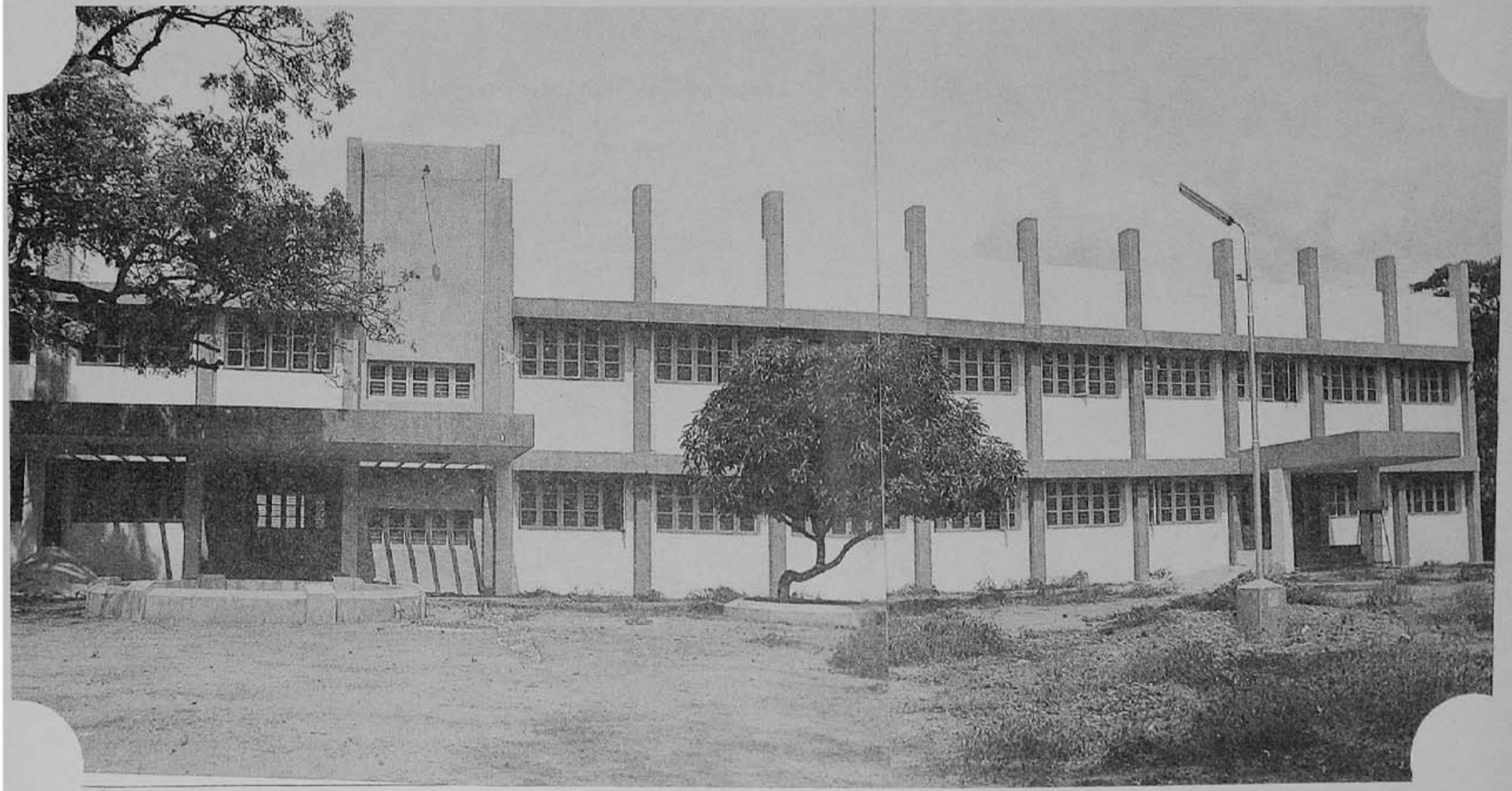
In Nanjilnadu and Venadu, during the 12th and 13th centuries and indeed for a long time to follow, there were local assemblies and temple Sabhas, which managed the day-to-day affairs in their respective fields. About these, the inscriptions at Vellayini of 1196 AD, at Trivandrum of 1209 AD, and at Manalikkara of 1235 AD speak of.[4]

In early times, each ruler maintained a well equipped army. The head of the army was called 'Enadi' (captain). The army was four type traditional one. (i.e.) Chariot, Elephants, Cavalry and Infantry. The weaponry were swords, bows and arrows, Javelins, spears etc. The drum and the conch were employed in the field, for signalling and to call the soldiers. The war drum of a ruler was held sacred.[5]

General Administration of Kanniyakumari District during Venad rulers : The present Kanniyakumari District area as part of the Travancore State had been under the rule of the Venad kings from the 12th century AD onwards. Travancore refers to 'Thiruvithankodu' now an insignificant village in the present Kanniyakumari District, which was the capital of the Venad kings in the early period of their rule.[6] Later, Padmanabhapuram, now the head quarters of a Revenue Division, served as the capital of the Venad rulers, until it was shifted to Trivandrum.

The 'British Raj' and the formation of the Madras Presidency, in no way disintegrated the Travancore State, which was due to the Kings maintaining cordial relationship with the British. Though Travancore was an independent Princely State, the legislations of the State were almost the same as that of the Madras Presidency, except for certain modifications here and there.

King Ravi Varma, who ascended the throne in 1684 AD. introduced some effective administrative measures, such as curtailment of the powers of the local chiefs by appointing Special Revenue Agents (*i.e.*) the Sarvathikaryakars, in the various parts of the country. The jurisdictions of the Sarvathikaryakars were more or less the same of the present Collectors of the Districts.



Collector's Office at Nagercoil

During the rule of Marthanda Varma, a Revenue Settlement was made. The district unit was divided into "Mandapathumvathukkal" (similar to the present taluk) and this was further split up into Kelvis. The former was under the control of an officer called 'Karyakar ' and latter under 'Parvathikar'.[7]

Col. Munroe, a British Officer, was the Dewan of Travancore State from AD 1810 to AD 1814. He brought about major changes in the Revenue and General Administration of the State. He established taluks and created the posts of Tahsildars. He renamed the 'Kelvis' as 'Pakuthy' and they continued to be under the administrative control of Parvathikars.[8]

After the accession of Travancore to the Indian Union in 1949, the State came under the administration of a popular ministry, but the administrative set up was as before. The Kanniyakumari district was formed in 1956, after which a gradual change in the administration was brought about, enabling it to fall in line with the rest of the districts in Tamil Nadu State.

The Collector : The District Collector, as the representative of the Government in the district, occupies the central role in district administration. The role of the Collector has undergone several changes. The nature, content and priorities of work have also been changing from time to time. His style of working has also changed. Authoritarian postures are resented. Apart from his ability to co-ordinate all developmental activities in the district and to control and direct the revenue staff towards efficient performance, the Collector is able to get the co-operation of the people and their leaders in all spheres of Government activity. The increase in population and urgency to provide minimum needs to the people, the pressure on land and water, demand for goods and services out-stripping availability, law and order problems, increased responsibility to protect and uplift the weaker sections of the people, co-ordination and management of all welfare, development and regulatory functions, have all made the work of the Collector difficult and complex. The Collector is constantly under pressure. Very often, Collector moves from one crisis to another. He is obliged to intervene and use his position and influence in all matters which are not his direct responsibility. His priorities have changed. All items of revenue work are largely the direct responsibility of the District Revenue Officer. The District Collector no doubt, has overall responsibility, but the level of performance of revenue work, depends to a

large extent on the working relationship, which exists between the District Collector and the District Revenue Officer

The Tamil Nadu Government have taken specific measures to redress the grievances of the people. Gone are the days, when the petitioners waited at the Government offices for hours unattended to and now the initiative rests with the officials where the Collector and his subordinates are available at the headquarters to receive petitions and hear the grievances of the public. Besides, there is Mass Contact Programme (Manu Needhi Thittam) during which the officials make themselves available to the citizen in specified venue and time. This is adhered to by the Collector and all the officers of the Government. The presence of other officers at the time of holding Mass Contact Programme helps the Collector to make on the spot enquiries to redress the grievances of the public. Every Monday is set apart as "Grievances Day" on which petitions are directly received from the people by the officials.

Kanniyakumari district consists of two Revenue Divisions (viz., Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram, each headed by a Sub-Collector or Revenue Divisional Officer. The Nagercoil Revenue Division consists of two taluks (i.e) Agasthiswaram with its headquarters at Nagercoil and Thovalai with its headquarters at Boothapandi. The Padmanabhapuram Revenue Division consists of two taluks (i.e) Kalkulam with its headquarters at Thuckalay and Vilavancode with its Headquarters at Kuzhithurai. These taluks are administered by Tahsildars with the assistance of Revenue Inspectors at Firka level and Village Administrative Officers at Village level.

It should be mentioned that right from the inauguration of the district, there have been full-time Village Officers, as in erstwhile Travancore and Cochin State.

District Level Officers : The following is the Departmental wise list of officers, who assist the Collector, in the General Administration of the district :–

I. **Revenue Department . –**

1. District Revenue Officer at Nagercoil.
2. Senior Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Nagercoil.

3. Personal Assistant (General) to the Collector, Nagercoil.
4. Personal Assistant (Accounts) to the Collector, Nagercoil.
5. Sub-Collector, Nagercoil.
6. Revenue Divisional Officer, Padmanabhapuram.
7. District Supply Officer, Nagercoil.
8. District Backward Classes Welfare Officer, Nagercoil.
9. District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer, Nagercoil.
10. Assistant Commissioner (Excise), Nagercoil.
11. Agricultural Income Tax Officer, Grade-I, Nagercoil.
12. Agricultural Income Tax Officer, Grade-II, Nagercoil.
13. Assistant Commissioner (Agricultural Income-Tax) Grade-I, Nagercoil
14. Regional Manager, TASMAC, Ltd., Nagercoil.
15. Tahsildar, Vilavancode.
16. Tahsildar, Kalkulam.
17. Tahsildar, Agasthiswaram.
18. Tahsildar, Thovalai.
19. Taluk Supply Officer, Vilavancode.
20. Taluk Excise Officer, Kalkulam.
21. Taluk Excise Officer, Vilavancode.
22. Taluk Excise Officer, Agasthiswaram.
23. Taluk Excise Officer, Thovalai.
24. Assistant Public Prosecutor, Nagercoil.

II Rural Development and Local Administration Department.—

1. Project Officer, D.R.D.A., Nagercoil.
2. Personal Assistant (Panchayat Development) to the Collector, Nagercoil.
3. Personal Assistant (Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meals Programme) to the Collector, Nagercoil.
4. Divisional Development Officer, Nagercoil.

5. Divisional Development Officer, Padmanabhapuram.
6. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Melpuram.
7. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Munchirai.
8. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Killiyoor.
9. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Thuckalay.
10. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Thiruvattar.
11. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Thovalai
12. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Kurunthencode.
13. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Rajakkamangalam.
14. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Agasthiswaram.
15. Panchayat Union Commissioner, Nagercoil.
16. Executive Officer, Kanniyakumari Township, Kanniyakumari.
17. District Savings Officer, Nagercoil.
18. Commissioner of Municipality, Nagercoil.
19. Commissioner of Municipality, Padmanabhapuram.
20. Commissioner of Municipality, Kuzhithurai.
21. Commissioner of Municipality, Colachel.

III. Local Fund and Audit Department .—

1. Assistant Examiner, Local Fund Accounts, Nagercoil.

IV. Department of State Trading Scheme .—

1. The Inspector , State Trading Scheme, Nagercoil.

V. Department of Information and Public Relations .—

1. Information and Public Relations Officer, Nagercoil.

VI. Department of Industries and Commerce.—

1. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Nagercoil.
2. The Assistant Director of Industries, (Industrial Co- operatives), Nagercoil.

3. Assistant Director of Industries, Nagercoil.

4. The Secretary, Kanniyakumari Government Industrial Co- operative Society, Vadasery.

VII. Department of Education .—

1. Chief Educational Officer, Nagercoil.
2. The District Educational Officer, Thuckalay.
3. The District Educational Officer, Nagercoil.
4. The Inspectress of Girl's School, Nagercoil.
5. District Project Officer, Office of the Chief Educational Officer, Nagercoil.
6. Regional Inspectress of Physical Education, Nagercoil.
7. District Adult Education Officer, Nagercoil.
8. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Nagercoil.
9. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Thuckalay.
10. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Rajakkamangalam.
11. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Colachel.
12. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Munchlirai.
13. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Karungal.
14. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Thiruvattar.
15. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Kuzhithurai.
16. Assistant Educational Officer, Melpuram.
17. Assistant Educational Officer,Munchirai.
18. Assistant Educational Officer, Killiyoor.
19. Assistant Educational Officer, Thuckalay.
20. Assistant Educational Officer, Thiruvattar.
21. Assistant Educational Officer, Thovalai.
22. Assistant Educational Officer, Kurunthankodu.
23. Assistant Educational Officer, Rajakkamangalam.
24. Assistant Educational Officer, Agasthiswaram.

VIII. Department of Agriculture . —

1. Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagercoil.
2. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farmers Training Centre), Thirupathisaram.
3. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training and Visit), Nagercoil.
4. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training and Visit), Thuckalay.
5. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training and Visit), Kuzhithurai.
6. The Assistant Crop Specialist (Paddy) Paddy Experiment Sub-Station, Thirupathisaram.
7. The Assistant Executive Engineer (Agricultural Engineering) Soil Conservation Scheme, Nagercoil.
8. The Assistant Soil Chemist, Soil Testing Laboratory Edalakudy, Nagercoil.
9. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Seed Centre), Nagercoil.
10. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Seed Centre), Thuckalay.
11. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Oil Seeds), Nagercoil.
12. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training and Visit), Nagercoil.
13. Assistant Director of Horticulture, Nagercoil.
14. Secretary, Kanniyakumari Market Committee, Nagercoil.

IX. Co-operative Department .—

1. Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies , Nagercoil.
2. District Co-operative Audit Officer, Nagercoil.
3. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Thuckalay.
4. Project Officer (NABARD & IF), Nagercoil.

X. Commercial Taxes Department .—

1. Assistant commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Nagercoil.
2. Commercial Tax Officer, Nagercoil (Town).
3. Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Nagercoil (Rural).
4. Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Thuckalay.

5. Deputy Commercial Tax Officer,Kuzhithurai
6. Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Nagercoil. (Town Junction)

XI. Labour Department .—

1. Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Conciliation), Nagercoil.
2. Inspector of Plantations, Nagercoil.
3. Deputy Inspector of Labour, Nagercoil.
4. Deputy Inspector of Labour (Minimum Wages), Nagercoil.
5. Assistant Inspector of Labour-I, Nagercoil.
6. Assistant Inspector of Labour-II, Nagercoil.
7. Assistant Inspector of Labour-III, Nagercoil.
8. Assistant Inspector of Labour-I, Thuckalay.
9. Assistant Inspector of Labour-II, Thuckalay.
10. Assistant Inspector of Labour , Marthandam.
11. Medical Officer (Plantation), Nagercoil.

XII. Department of Fisheries . —

1. Superintending Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Nagercoil.
2. Assistant Director of Fisheries, Nagercoil.
3. Assistant Director of Fisheries (Inshore Fishing Station), Kanniyakumari.
4. Assistant Director of Fisheries (Fishing Training Centre), Colachel.
5. Chief Executive officer, Fish Farmers Development Agency, Nagercoil.
6. Executive Engineer, Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour Division, II, Nagercoil.
7. Assistant Executive Engineer, Fishing Harbour Sub-Division-I, Nagercoil.
8. Assistant Executive Engineer, Fishing Harbour Sub-Division - II, Chinnamuttom Road, Kanniyakumari.
9. Assistant Executive Engineer, Fishing Harbour Sub-Division - III, Kanniyakumari.

10. Assistant Executive Engineer, Fishing Harbour Sub-Division - IV, Kanniyakumari.

XIII. Forest Department .—

1. District Forest Officer, Kanniyakumari Division, Nagercoil.
2. Divisional Forest Officer, Cloves Plantation Division, Nagercoil.
3. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest Protection Squad, Nagercoil

XIV. Highways and Rural Works .—

1. Divisional Engineer, Highways and Rural Works, Nagercoil.
2. Divisional Engineer, (H) Rural Road, Nagercoil.
3. Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways and Rural Works, Nagercoil.
4. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) N.R.E.P. Sub -Division, Thuckalay.
5 Assistant Divisional Engineer (H &RW) Thovalai at Bhoothapandy.
6. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) R.R., Nagercoil.
7. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) R.R., Thuckalay.
8. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) Investigation, Nagercoil.
9. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) N.H. Sub-Division, Nagercoil.
10. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H &RW), Nagercoil.
11. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H &RW), Kuzhithurai.
12. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H &RW) , Thuckalay.
13. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) NREP Sub-Division, Nagercoil.
14. Assistant Divisional Engineer (H) RLEGP Sub-Division, Nagercoil.

XV Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Admn.) Department .—

1. Assistant Commissioner, Hindu religious and Charitable Endowments (Admn). Department, Nagercoil.
2. The Executive Officer,Incorporated and Unincorporated Devaswam, Suchindrum.
3. The Superintendent, Temple Car Training Centre, Nagercoil.

XVI. Jail Department .—

1. The Superintendent , Sub-Jail, Nagercoil.
2. The Superintendent , Sub-Jail, Thuckalay.
3. The Superintendent , Sub-Jail, Kuzhithurai.

XVII. Medical Department .—

1. District Medical Officer, Nagercoil.
2. The Superintendent , Government T.B. Hospital, Nagercoil.
3. Medical Officer, ESI Dispensary, Nagercoil.
4. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Padmanabhapuram.
5. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Aralvoimozhi.
6. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Kuzhithurai.
7. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Arumanai.
8. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Bhoothapandy.
9. Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Colachel.
10. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Azhagappapuram.
11. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Kulasekaram.
12. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Kottaram.
13. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Ganapathipuram.
14. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Kanniyakumari.
15. Medical Officer, Govt. Dispensary, Thengapattanam.
16. Medical Officer, Govt. Leprosy Central Unit, Vilavancode.
17. Medical Officer, Govt. Leprosy Central Unit, Thuckalay.
18. District Family Welfare Officer, Nagercoil.
19. Assistant Medical Officer, Govt. Ayurvedic Dispensary, Thirupathisaram.
20. Assistant Medical Officer, Govt. Ayurvedic Dispensary , Edalakudy.
21. The District Health Officer, Nagercoil.
22. District Siddha Medical Officer, Nagercoil.

XVIII. Public Works Department .—

1. Executive Engineer, PWD (Anti-Sea Erosion), Nagercoil
2. Executive Engineer, Kanniyakumari Division, Nagercoil.
3. Assistant Executive Engineer, School Buildings Sub-Division, Nagercoil.
4. Assistant Executive Engineer, Pattanamkal Sub-Division, Kuzhithurai.
5. Assistant Executive Engineer , Nagercoil Sub-Division, Nagercoil.
6. Assistant Executive Engineer, Thuckalay Sub-Division, Thuckalay.
7. Executive Engineer (Anandanar) Division, Nagercoil.
8. Assistant Executive Engineer, Kuzhithurai.
9. Executive Engineer (Project Investigation), Nagercoil.
10. Executive Engineer (Ground Water), Nagercoil.

XIX. Police Department .—

1. Superintendent of Police, Nagercoil.
2. Additional Superintendent of Police, Prohibition and enforcement wing, Nagercoil.
3. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nagercoil.
4. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thuckalay.
5. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kuzhithurai.
6. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Colachel.
7. Deputy Superintendent of Police, (Reserve Police), Nagercoil.

XX. Employment and Training Department .—

1. District Employment Officer, Nagercoil.

XXI. Registration Department .—

1. District Registrar, Nagercoil.
2. District Registrar, (Audit), Nagercoil.
3. District Registrar, Marthandam.
4. Sub-Registrar, Thuckalay.

5. Sub-Registrar, Verkilambi.
6. Sub-Registrar, Kollencode.
7. Sub-Registrar, Thovalai.
8. Sub-Registrar, Thiruvattar.
9. Sub-Registrar, Munchirai.
10. Sub-Registrar, Manavalakurichi.
11. Sub-Registrar, Rajakkamangalam.
12. Sub-Registrar, Palliyadi.
13. Sub-Registrar, Eraniel.
14 Sub-Registrar ,Bhoothapandy.
15. Sub-Registrar, Edalakudy.
16. Sub-Registrar, Arumanai.
17. Sub-Registrar, Karungal.
18. Sub-Registrar, Kottaram.
19. Sub-Registrar, Colachel.
20. Sub-Registrar, Palukal.
21. Sub-Registrar, Vadaseri.
22. Joint Sub-Registrar-I, Registrar's Office, Nagercoil.
23. Joint Sub-Registrar (G.II), Marthandam.

XXII. Social Welfare Department .—

1. District Social Welfare Officer, Nagercoil.

XXIII. Statistical Department .—

1. District Statistical Officer, Nagercoil.

XXIV. Survey and Land Administration Department .—

1. Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records, Nagercoil.

XXV. Transport Department .—

1. Regional Transport Officer, Nagercoil.
2. Port Officer, Kanniyakumari.
3. Tourist Officer, Kanniyakumari.

XXVI. Treasuries and Accounts Department .—

1. Treasury Officer, Nagercoil.
2. Sub-Treasury Officer, Thovalai.
3. Sub-Treasury Officer, Kalkulam.
4. Sub-Treasury Officer, Vilavancode.
5. Sub-Treasury Officer, Nagercoil.
6. Sub-Treasury Officer, Karungal.
7. Sub-Treasury Officer, Eraniel.

XXVII. Khadi and Village Industries Department . —

1. Assistant Director of Khadi, Nagercoil.
2. Assistant Director (Village Industries), Nagercoil.

XXVIII. Tamil Development Department .—

1. Assistant Director, Tamil Development (Inspection), Nagercoil.

XXIX. Animal Husbandry Department .—

1. Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, Nagercoil.
2. Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, Thuckalay.
3. District Veterinary Officer, Nagercoil.
4. The Key Village Officer, Nagercoil.

Judiciary :

"Judiciary" is however under the administrative and disciplinary control of the District Judge.

The following officers assist the District Judge, towards the administration of justice :—

1. District judge, Nagercoil.
2. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nagercoil.
3. Sub-Judge, Nagercoil.
4. Sub-Judge, Padhmanabhapuram.
5. Sub-Judge, Kuzhithurai.
6. District Munsiff, Nagercoil.
7. District Munsiff , Kuzhithurai.
8. District Munsiff, Padhmanabhapuram.
9. Judicial - I Class Magistrate, Padhmanabhapuram.
10. Judicial - II Class Magistrate, Eraniel.
11. Judicial - I Class Magistrate, Kuzhithurai.
12. Additional Judicial - I Class Magistrate, Kuzhithurai.
13. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nagercoil.
14. Special - I Class Magistrate, Nagercoil.
15. Judicial - II Class Magistrate, Nagercoil Town.
16. Judicial - II Class Magistrate, Nagercoil Taluk.
17. Official Receiver, Nagercoil.

Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking and Other Departments :

1. Managing Director, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Nagercoil.
2. Managing Director, Arasu Rubber Corporation, Thuckalay.
3. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Paraliar, Keeriparai - P.O.
4. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Keeriparai - P.O.
5. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Kalikesam, Keeripari -P.O.
6. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited,Manalodai, Ponmanai-P.O.

7. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Kallar Division, Kodayar-P.O.

8. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Kodayar,

9. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Maruthamparai, Orunooramvayal, Arukani-P.O.

10. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited,Mylar, Chittar Colony-P.O.

11. Divisional Manager, Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited, Chittar, Chittar Colony - P.O.

12. Divisional Development Officer, Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing Development Corporation Limited, Nagercoil.

13. Assistant Director of Ex-Servicemen's Welfare, Kanniyakumari at Nagercoil.

14. Assistant Engineer, Govt. Workshop for Vehicles, Public Health Department, Nagercoil.

15. Automobile Engineer, Govt. Workshop, Nagercoil.

16. Assistant Director of Geology and Mines, Nagercoil.

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6 Nagam Aiya, V., *Travancore State Manual*, Vol.I., Travancore Govt. Press 1906, p.2.
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CHAPTER – 11

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

History of Land Revenue Management : From time immemorial, Kanniyakumari has been a part of Tamil Nadu integral with the Pandiya Kingdom. The changes in royal power were very few and of short durations. The Tamil system of land administration in which the State was the undisputed owner of all lands, was in vogue in Kanniyakumari also. The experiments and experiences of Travancore State, which had been well-established in Kerala proper, never became permanently forceful in Kanniyakumari.

PRESENT SYSTEM

Introduction of Ryotwari : After the formation of the district, the question of survey and the maintenance of the survey of records arose. The Government deputed an Assistant Director of the Survey and Land Records Department for investigation. Based on his recommendation, the Government ordered a survey of the whole district especially in view of the fact that the previous survey was done some sixty years back.

The system of Land Revenue administration prevailing in Kanniyakumari district was found to be entirely different from the one existing in the rest of the Tamil Nadu. In the ryotwari area of Tamil Nadu, the land revenue assessment was fixed and levied with reference to the intrinsic fertility of soil, taram, sort and location of the land. A flat rate of Rs. 2/- was being charged by the erstwhile Travancore Government in the transferred territory of Kanniyakumari district. In order to replace the flat levy of assessment by different rates of assessment with reference to the nature of the soil, taram, sort and location of the land, the Tamil Nadu Transferred Territory (Ryotwari Settlement) Act, 1964 (Act 30/64) was passed.

For the purpose of effecting ryotwari settlement, re-survey was conducted in the area and it was completed in 1967. A settlement notification, incorporating the principles set out in the settlement notification for Tirunelveli district, was issued in G.O. Ms. No. 297, Revenue dated 14 February 1966. Under this notification, the lands were classified as dry, wet and manavari and the soils were divided into different classes and further into sorts. The rate of assessment was set out for each sort of soil. The soil classification work was done by the

Settlement Inspectors on inspection of each land and over-checked by the Settlement Deputy Tahsildar and thereafter by the Assistant Settlement Officer and Settlement Officer. The wet lands were delimited with reference to the commandability of the irrigation sources. Appropriate assessment rates were fixed taking into account the taram, sort and classification of the soil. Ryotwari rates of assessment have been brought into force in the transferred territory from Fasli 1380 onwards, after due publicity, by means of notifications.

The villages in Kanniyakumari district were found to be unwidely and large and much difficulty was experienced in administering them. Seventeen villages which were very large were split up into two villages each and separate accounts were prepared. The total number of villages in Kanniyakumari district is now 81 as against 64 that existed previously.

In this area, there is a separate village service establishment comprising of Village Officers in the cadre of Assistants and Junior Assistants. They maintain the accounts in a separate office for each village. They are also liable to be transferred to other villages.

In the transferred territory of Kanniyakumari district, there were some special features of revenue payable by the ryots to the intermediaries mainly connected with the temples and the family of Rajah of Travancore on certain items of work connected with the religious services. In order to stop such payments, the following enactments were passed and implemented in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district.

The Kanniyakumari Sreepandaravaka lands (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari Act - 31/65) : Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple of Tiruvanandapuram held certain lands known as 'Sree Pandaravaka lands' in Kanniyakumari district. The income derived from these lands was used for the upkeep of certain temples maintained by Sri Padmanabha-swamy Devasthanam. This Act sought for the acquisition of the rights over these lands with effect from the appointed day (viz.,) 1 March 1965 and grant of ryotwari patta to the tenants after due payment of compensation to the temples. All the applications received under section 8 (1) of the Act have been disposed of. The implementation of the Act is completely over.

The Tamil Nadu Transferred Territory Tiruppuvaram Payment (Abolition) Act 32/64 : Tiruppuvaram is an assignment of revenue or rent

payable in money or in kind or in both in respect of any land or a portion of revenue made in favour of religious, educational or charitable institutions or individuals. This Act sought to abolish this right with effect from the appointed date viz., 1 March 1965 on payment of tasdic allowance or compensation as the case may be. The work has been completed.

The Tamil Nadu Transferred Territory Jenmikanam Payment (Abolition Act) 39/64 : The traditional land owners by name *Jenmies* were collecting certain amount called *Jenmikanam* from Kudiyans. This Act was passed to extinguish this right with effect from the appointed date viz. 16 March 1965 on payment of compensation collectable from the Kudiyans. In all the 265 cases, compensation and the tasdic allowance have been determined.

The Kanniyakumari Sreepadam lands (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act 11/73 : This Act provides for the abolition of the intermediaries, by name, *Sreepadam holders* in Kanniyakumari district and to effect ryotwari settlement in the Sreepadam lands. The total area of Sreepadam lands in the district was 0.85 sq.mile approximately, spread over in 20 villages. The Sreepadam lands have been taken over and ryotwari settlement has been introduced in the entire area.

History of Land Surveys in Kanniyakumari District : The first Trigonometrical and Topographical surveys in India was done under the supervision of the then military officers of the British Army between 1800-1823.

The systems of survey in the former Travancore State are detailed below:—

Topographical survey was done in Travancore and Cochin areas by lieutenants Ward and Connur between 1816-21. By this survey, the data made available were tables of triangulations, description of the districts, villages, forests producttion and passes. In their memoir, they have described the hill tribes of Travancore and published it in the Madras Journal of Literature and Science.

From 1884–1906 the methods adopted in cadastral survey operations in this area were:—

(i) Simple triangulation of Tak system of chain survey.

(ii) Bare line and offset system.

(iii) Triangles and offset system.

The records prepared by the different systems of survey were:

Individual survey field maps were prepared on scales 1" = 1 chain (1:792) and 1" = 5 chains (1:3960) for each cadastral survey. Village maps were prepared on scale 16" = 1 mile (1:3960) and in exceptional cases village maps were prepared on scale 8" = 1 mile (1:7920). The accuracy in survey was reckoned at 1/1000 for main boundaries of units like village or taluk. In area, the difference allowed was one per cent and over this limit, any difference was treated as error in area. The basic unit adopted in area was acre and cents and in linear measurement the basic unit was links. For individual fields of cadastral surveys, no linear error appreciable on the scale of 16"=1 mile was tolerated, though during the course of maintenance of land records, certain limits of error were allowed.

In Travancore area, all the sub division points of cadastral survey fields were durably demarcated with granite stones.

The instruments used in Survey of the area were Everest and Transit type Theodolites with vernier reading upto 20 seconds or 30 seconds, Gunters chain, Cross staff, plane table and prismatic compass.

The circuit system of traverse was usually adopted for each village. Rectangular co-ordinates were computed for each village for plotting. The Traverse circuits were harmonised with reference to values obtained for village trijunctions. The main boundary of a village is connected usually with G.T. station and the traverse distances were checked with G.T. values. It may be noted here that there was evenly spread out net work of minor G.T. Triangulation for the Travancore-Cochin area and as such miles of distances had to be traversed to obtain connection to G.T. stations. The account was, therefore, accurate.

After the transfer of Kanniyakumari district to the State of Tamil Nadu with effect from 1 November 1956, that is the appointed day, - appointment of Survey Officers for this area to exercise powers was ordered in G.O. Ms. No. 3379, Revenue Department, dated 24 August 1957. As the area was not re-surveyed previously, the Government in their order Ms. No. 2789, Revenue Department, dated 1 August 1958 ordered Re-survey in the entire area of Kanniyakumari district. The Re-Survey operations in the entire area of Kanniyakumari district were completed and the records are now in maintenance.

Land Reforms : Land is an important source of production. Prevention of inequitable distribution of wealth has been accepted principle of our Government in order to ensure social and economic justice among our people. With this view, various measures of land reforms have been introduced after Independence and are being implemented to bring about a fair economic system which would also serve to maximise production and lead to national prosperity. Under the Prime Minister's New Twenty Point Economic Programme 1986 also, 'Enforcement of Land Reforms' has been given the fifth place.

The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling of Land) Act 1961 (Act 58 of 1961) : This Act came into force with effect from 6 April 1960. In the beginning ceiling area for a family of five members was fixed at 30 standard acres with an allowance of five standard acres for each additional member in the family, subject to overall ceiling area of 60 standard acres. Subsequently, the ceiling was reduced to 15 standard acres per family of five members with effect from, 15 February 1970. In addition to this, female members were allowed to hold 10 standard acres as *Stridhana* if they held such lands on the date of commencement of the Act. However, a family cannot hold more than 30 standard acres.

The lands found to be in excess of the ceiling area are acquired as surplus by Government, after following the procedure prescribed by the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (FCL) Act, 1961, as amended. The surplus lands are being distributed among landless agricultural labourers and others according to the provisions contained in the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Disposal of Surplus Land) Rules, 1965, as amended.

In Tamil Nadu, an extent of 170763 acres of land has been notified as surplus upto 30 November 1988. An extent of 143311 acres of land has been disposed of upto 30 November 1988. Out of this, an extent of 4041 acres has been handed over to the Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Farms Corporation Limited and an extent of 9,976 acres has been reserved under rule 13 of the Tamil Nadu Reforms (DSL) Rules 1965, for public purposes.

In the district of Kanniyakumari alone, an extent of 409 acres of land was notified as surplus upto 31 October 1986. Out of this, an extent of 299 acres of land has been assigned to 244 eligible persons. Out of the above extent , an extent of 75 acres has been assigned to 47 persons belonging

to scheduled castes and the remaining extent of 224 acres has been assigned to 197 persons belonging to other categories.

A target of 2,000 acres was fixed by Government for assignment of surplus land in Tamil Nadu State for 1986-87. Upto 31 October 1986, an extent of 1,161 acres had been assigned. An extent of 10 acres was fixed as target for Kanniyakumari district for the year 1986-87 and towards this target, an extent of eight acres had been assigned upto 30 November 1988.

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956 : Under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956 and the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961, the fair rent payable by the Cultivating tenant to the land-holder varied from 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent (of the normal gross produce for lands other than wet lands) to 40 per cent (of the normal gross produce for wet lands). National Policy is that the fair rent due to the land holder from the tenants should be fixed so as not to exceed 25 per cent of the gross produce. The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payments of Fair Rent) Amendment Act, 1980 (Tamil Nadu Act 17 of 1980) and the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Amendment Act, 1980 (Tamil Nadu Act 18 of 1980) have been enacted for reducing the fair rent to 25 per cent of the normal gross produce. The exemption from the fair rent law earlier applicable to sugarcane has also been withdrawn.

By the Tamil Nadu Act 4 of 1976, the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956 have been extended to Kanniyakumari district.

Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961 (Act 57/61) : Public trusts cannot cultivate land in excess of 20 standard acres under pannai cultivation. If any trust personally cultivates lands in excess of 20 standard acres, it is directed by the Assistant Commissioner concerned to lease out the lands to eligible persons. Lands in excess of 20 standard acres under pannai cultivation by public trusts are to be leased out to bonafide persons. Under section 52 (1) of the Act, Government also accord exemption in respect of certain lands held by certain public trusts from the provisions of this Act.

The fair rent payable by the tenants is similar to that laid down under the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956, which, in all cases, is 25 per cent of the gross produce.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands (Records of Tenancy Rights) Act, 1969 (Tamil Nadu Act No. 10/69) :

The twin objectives envisaged in the Five Year Plan were:—

1) to remove such impediments towards agricultural production as arose from the agrarian structure inherited from the past, and

2) to eliminate all elements of exploitation and social injustice within the agrarian system and provide security to the tiller of the soil and secure equality of status and opportunity to all sections of the rural population.

To achieve the above two objectives, tenancy legislations were enacted in the State. Unless the tenants are identified, the benefits accrued from the various tenancy legislations would not reach the proper persons. Hence, it was thought necessary to find out the real tenants and record their rights in the land so as to enable them to secure maximum benefits from the Acts passed by the Government and financial credit for improving agricultural production. Hence, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands Record of Tenancy Rights Act, 1969 was passed. The Act provides for the preparation and maintenance of Record of Tenancy Rights in respect of agricultural lands in the State. The Act was enacted with a view to prepare a complete record of tenancy rights to safeguard the interests of tenants. The Act has been implemented in the entire State, except certain villages in which settlement operations are pending. The record of Tenancy Rights duly approved by the Record Officer (Special Tahsildar) has been published both in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and also in the respective District Gazette. A copy of this permanent record is kept safe in taluk offices and is also made available for perusal of the tenants. Certified copy of this record is also granted to the tenants, on application as and when necessary.

The approved Records of Tenancy Rights, prepared by the special staff and published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, have been handed over to Taluk Officers for maintenance. The Taluk Officers (Tahsildars) have been notified as Record Officers under section 2 (7) of the Act and they are now implementing the Act. The Act contains

provisions for additions and deletions of particulars entered in the approved Records of Tenancy Rights with provisions for appeal and revision. There were widespread complaints that the work relating to the preparation of Record of Tenancy Rights under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands Record of Tenancy Rights Act 1969 has not done properly. With a view to improve the above work, the Government have taken a decision to associate non-officals in the work by constituting Advisory Committee.

Accordingly, by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands Record of Tenancy Rights Amendment Act, 1981 (Tamil Nadu No.45/81), the Government have constituted Advisory Committees at taluk level for the purpose of advising the Record Officers in the discharge of their functions and in particular in the prepartion of Record of Tenancy Rights. The committee consists of one landless agricultural labourer belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, one tenant and three social workers. The said committees have been constituted in certain taluks of Dharmapuri, Tirunelveli, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Madurai and Anna districts. The constitution of the above committees in the remaining taluks of the above districts and in other districts is under consideration. The Committees will be constituted in Kanniyakumari district also.

The term of office of the members of the above committees shall be three years from the date of their appointment and they are eligble for reappointment. They would continue as members until the appointment of their successors.

The Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1961, (Act XXXVIII of 1961) : This Act protects the interests of persons occupying *Kudiyirupus* as on 31 March 1959 from eviction by landlords. Under section 3 (1) of the Act, no person occupying a kudiyiruppu shall be evicted from such Kudiyiruppu except in accordance with provisions of the Act. The life of the Act was three years in the beginning. It was extended from time to time. Government then decided to re-enact this Act with retrospective effect from 29 November 1973 and Act 23 of 1975 was enacted accordingly.

The Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act. 1971 and **The Tamil Nadu Rural Artisans (Conferment of Ownership of Kudiyiruppu) Act 1976 :** These Acts provide for the conferment of ownership rights on agriculturists, agricultural labourers and rural artisan for their house-sites. The homestead (Kudiyiruppus) are assigned free of cost and free from all

encumbrances. Compensation is paid by the Governent to the owner of the land. Alienation of the site for ten years is prohibited under the Kudiyiruppu Act of 1971. 180217 persons have been granted pattas up to 30 November 1988 in Tamil Nadu State, comprising of 99010 persons belonging to scheduled castes, 2209 persons belonging to scheduled tribes, 46973 persons belonging to backward classes and 32025 persons belonging to other communities.

In Kanniyakumari district, 944 persons were given patta till 30 November 1988 consisting of 269 persons of Scheduled Castes, 291 persons of Backward Classes and 434 persons of other Communities.

Similar action is being taken under the Tamil Nadu Rural Artisan (Conferment of Ownership of Kudiyiruppu) Act 1976. Under this Act, 407 persons have been granted pattas for the whole State upto 30 November 1988 of whom 43 persons belong to scheduled castes, 15 persons belong to scheduled tribes , 227 persons belong to backward classes and 122 persons belong to other communities.

Wages for employment in Agriculture Sector – The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 : The provisions of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 are being implemented with a view to fix minimum rates of wages for employment in agriculture and works ancillary thereto. This Act is being implementedd throughout the State of Tamil Nadu, except a few taluks covering East Thanjavur district, where the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Fair Wages Act, 1969 are in force.

Collectors, District Revenue Officers, Revenue Divisional Officers, Taluk Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors have been appointed as Inspectors under section 19(1) of the Minimum Wages Act 1948. The review of progress in the implementation of the Act is made at the level of Government every month.

The rates of minimum wages of employment in agriculture and works ancillary thereto are fixed by Government from time to time. Government of Tamil Nadu have fixed the following rates with effect from 5 April 1983 as per G. O.Ms. No. 866, Labour and Employment Department, dated 2 April 1983.

			Hours of work
	(1)	*(2)*	
1	Employee engaged in ploughing with bullocks and plough supplied by him.	Rs. 18.00	5 hours per day
2	Employee engaged in ploughing with bullocks and plough not supplied by him	Rs. 11.00	5 " "
3	Employee engaged in harvest in respect of paddy crop	Rs. 11.00	7 " "
		Cash value of the worker's share of 1/8th of the gross yield of produce, whichever is higher.	
4	Employee engaged in harvest in respect of crops other than paddy.	Rs. 11.00	7 hours per day
5	Employee engaged in trans-plantations or weeding	Rs. 8.00	7 " "
6	Employee engaged in other agri-cultural operations (including trimming bunds and fields, climbing trees, etc.)	Rs. 10.00	7 " "
7	Attached labourer/resident labourer	210.00	per month

While axmoishing the fields, the Collector, Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars verify, by surprise by making searching enquiries, whether minimum wages are paid to agricultural coolies. If they find that any of the Land owner had paid lower than the minimum wage fixed by the Government, they immediately made efforts to pay the amount of difference to the agricultural coolies through the land owners on the spot itself. This inculcates a sense of fear in the minds of the Land owners, who indulge in payment of low wages, than that prescribed by the Government.

Government are giving wide publicity for implementation of these schemes. Peoples', committees, Village committees, etc. function at village level for bringing to light not only the incidents of under-payments, but also other hurdles that come to notice in the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have now constituted a committee to study the conditions of the agricultural labourers and to suggest revision to the minimum rates of wages. The committee has toured all important parts of the districts for discussion with the area representatives, the landowners, agricultural labourers, etc. and gathered statistics and other required materials from the representatives. The committee is to submit its report to Government shortly.

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955 : This Act provides that no cultivating Tenant shall be evicted from his holdings except for non-payment of rent, doing any act injurious to the land, failure to cultivate the crops, etc., Earlier, disputes under this Act were settled by Revenue Divisional Officers. But, tangible progress cannot be shown because of their multifarious functions. These functions are now being carried out by eleven (11) Revenue Courts presided over by Deputy Collectors constituted exclusively for this purpose. By Tamil Nadu Act 4/76, the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955 have been extended to Kanniyakumari district.

Bhoodan and Gramdhan : Bhoodan and Gramdhan movement is a Socio-political movement with the Sarvodaya ideologies. Unlike other measures, it aims at removing inequalities in the ownership of land through non-violent and non-coercive means. Bhoodan is a voluntary act of land owners donating land for distribution among landless poor and Gramdhan is the conceptional expansion of Bhoodan with the aim of bringing the trusteeship of landed property (i.e.) transfer of ownership of land to village community.

Details of implementation : The Tamil Nadu Government through the enactment of the Bhoodan Act, 1959, gave statutory recognition to the Bhoodan and Gramdhan action and for administering and disposing of these lands coming under them.

In Kanniyakumari district, an extent of 90 acres of lands has been donated as Bhoodan in the following taluks:—

	Taluk	Cases	Extent
1.	Kalkulam	75	30.00
2.	Agasthiswaram	60	20.00
3.	Vilavancode	50	31.00
4.	Thovalai	10	10.00
		195	91.00

These lands have been distributed to 198 persons, of whom 173 belong to Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The following two persons have donated more than 10 acres to the Bhoodan movement in this district :-

1	Thiru Hussain Marikkar, Marikkar House, Trivandrum	Ezhudesam Village R.S.Nos. 231/2 and 234/2 (11.92 acres).
2	Thiru K. Narayana Pillai Elenkath House, Neyyoor West P.O.	Mecode Village, R.S.No. 695/1 (10.96 acres).

The land donated to the Bhoodan movement by Thiru. Hussain Marikkar, Trivandrum was distributed to 41 persons of all communities - Chiefly fishermen and the beneficiaries have planted coconut plants in their respective portions. There are about 1200 coconut plants in the lands and there is a well constructed under the Drought Relief Scheme in it. As the land lies in the sea coast, the plants require pure water. Now the Tamil Nadu Bhoodan Yagna Board, Madurai has programmed to develop the same under the *Sarva Seva Farm* using the water in the well by fitting a pump set and forming feeding channels to water the plants and to make it an ideal Farm under the Bhoodan Board. This work will be taken up soon under the direct supervision of Land Bhoodan Board officials.

The land donated to the Bhoodan movement by Thiru. K. Narayana Pillai, Neyyoor west was distributed to 11 persons and they have planted rubber trees in it.

An extent of 1 acre of Bhoodan land in R.S. No. 826 in Thiruvattar village was placed at the disposal of the Thiruvattar Panchayat Union wherein the Panchayat Union office has been constructed and functioning.

Similarly an extent of 0.05 cents in R.S. No. 851/IA of the same village was placed at the disposal of the Thiruvattar Panchayat Union for construction of a Balwadi.

Gramdhan : Land donated for Gramdhan in a Gramdhan village includes any land in such village donated for the *Bhoodan Yagna* and granted under sub section 1 of section 19 to the Sarvodaya Panchayat constituted for the village. Gramdhan village means any revenue village or villages or part or parts thereof in which (i) not less than two thirds of the number of persons residing or owning lands donated all their lands for Gramdhan or.

(ii) not less than one half of the total extent of the lands owned by persons residing in such villages or villages or part or parts thereof is donated by persons residing or owning lands therein donating all their lands for Gramdhan and which the Government may, by notification, declare to be a gramdhan village. Sarvodaya Panchayat means the Sarvodaya Panchayat constituted for a gramdhan village.

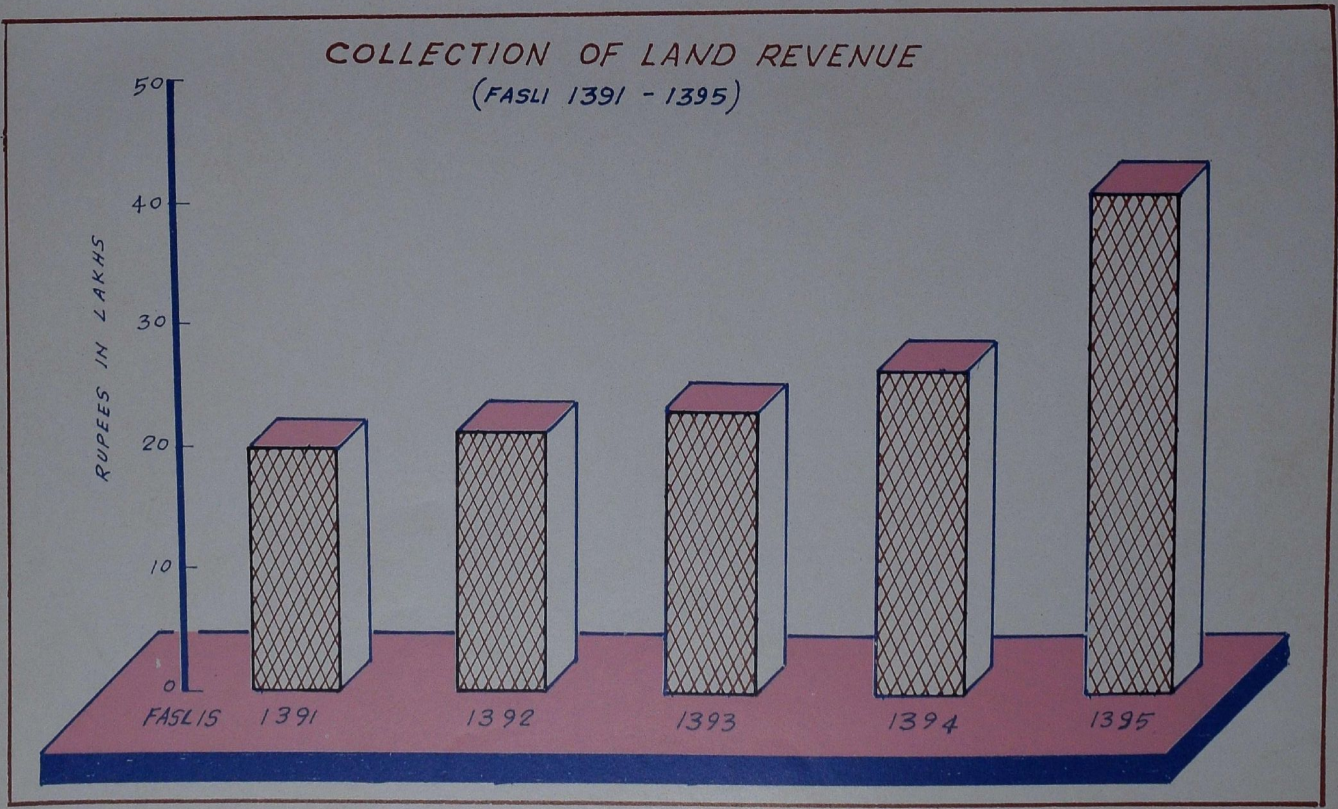
In Kanniyakumari district the first and foremost village donated and declared under Gramdhan is Panikulam H/O. Kottaram and Kanniyakumari villages in Agasthiswaram taluk. In both these villages 36 pattadars in the hamlet signed the declaration forms No. 1 and the extent covered under Gramdhan is 9.64 acres. The inhabitants of this hamlet are mainly Harijans.

Gramdhan villages are given preference to other villages in executing developmental programmes. The Gramdhan village known as Narikulam Harijan Colony is accordingly given a preferential treatment and its requirements have been ascertained and furnished to the Panchayat Union Commissioner, Agasthiswaram for execution.

STATEMENT – 1

Land Revenue collected in Kanniyakumari district – Fasli 1391–1395

Name of the Taluk	*Faslis*				
	1391	*1392*	*1393*	*1394*	*1395*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
Thovalai ..	407111.59	407240.44	426300.59	480773.33	764943.55
Agastiswaram ..	592879.16	504530.73	511484.82	853358.76	1305752.70
Kalkulam ..	623179.75	697868.03	801259.05	194319.17	1375035.10
Vilavancode ..	393542.80	536921.50	591944.45	551639.86	670613.24
District Total ..	2016713.03	2146560.70	2330988.91	2680091.12	4116344.59


COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE
(FASLI 1391 - 1395)
RUPEES IN LAKHS
50
40
30
20
10
0
FASLIS
1391
1392
1393
1394
1395

Sources of Revenue : The details of important sources of revenue of the district, are given below:—

Land Revenue : The land revenue was the mainstay of government till recently. This pride of place is no longer available to it, due to the advent of other items of revenue like Agricultural Income Tax and Commercial taxes. However indirectly, it is only the agricultural land which sustains our economy and it is but proper to speak of land revenue first, in any general discussion of sources of revenue.

The amount of land revenue collected in the district from Fasli 1391 to 1395 may be seen in the Statement – 1.

It may be seen that the amount of land revenue has more than doubled in fasli 1395 when compared with fasli 1391. The amount of Local Cess and Local Cess surcharge (which are a prescribed proportions of the land revenue) collected in the district these years are also given in Statements 2 and 3.

The amount of land revenue has registered a further remarkable increase from fasli 1395 to 1397 as may be seen from the figures of fasli 1397 given below :–

Thovalai Taluk	Rs. 10,85,758 . 54
Agasthiswaram Taluk	Rs. 16,64,926 . 75
Kalkulam Taluk	Rs. 18,46,080 . 05
Vilavankod Taluk	Rs. 8,16,604 . 50
District total	Rs. 54,13,369 . 84

Agricultural Income Tax : The Travancore - Cochin Agricultural Income Tax Act, 1955 was in force in Kanniyakumari district till 31st March 1972. By the Amendment Act of 1973, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Income Tax Act, 1955, was extended to Kanniyakumari district from 1st April 1972 and the Travancore Cochin Act, 1955 was repealed.

STATEMENT – 2

Amount of Local Cess Collected in Kanniyakumari district, Fasli 1391-1395

Name of the Taluk		*Faslis*				
		1391	*1392*	*1393*	*1394*	*1395*
(1)		*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
		Rs. P.	Rs. p.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
Thovalai	..	62041.54	82265.76	109687.92	89719.76	130692.91
Agastiswaram	..	102082.00	89197.17	156513.38	185600.50	312548.59
Kalkulam	..	105875.85	135493.05	241576.05	199500.96	317389.84
Vilavancode	..	54793.17	107475.09	138875.07	107795.19	130596.10
District Total	..	324792.56	414431.07	646652.42	582616.14	891227.44

STATEMENT – 3

Amount of Local Cess Surcharge Collected in the district, Fasli 1391-1395

Name of the Taluk	Faslis				
	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
Thovalai ..	368625.50	451287.43	614519.66	522543.58	1598034.88
Agastiswaram ..	850274.32	472768.98	708059.23	728160.59	1675843.89
Kalkulam ..	890290.76	875695.01	1082139.03	1046875.76	1769592.01
Vilavancode ..	456306.23	491067.67	710694.56	588220.73	720975.53
District Total ..	2565496.81	2290819.09	3115412.48	2885800.66	5764446.13

The Agricultural Income Tax is levied in each financial year on the total agricultural income of the previous year (account year) of every assessee, who holds lands more than the exempted limit. The exemption limit was 10.00 standard Acres from the assessment year 1972-73 to 1978-80. Though the main theme of the Act is to levy tax on agricultural income, with a view to facilitate the agriculturists who do not maintain accounts, a provision for compounding, in other words for payment of lumpsum on the basis of holdings is available to the assessees holding non-plantation lands without any limit and to the assessees holding plantations lands upto a limit. The limit for compounding for plantations was 50 standard acres upto the assessment year 1978-79 and 100 standard acres from the assessment year 1979-80.

Certain cash crops cultivated from the lands and taram assessment of the lands were taken into account for the purpose of converting the lands into standard acres prior to 1 April 1979. From the assessment year 1979-80 onwards, the conversion to standard acre is computed on crop basis and also with reference to irrigation. Lands used exclusively for pasture and house sites are, however, excluded for the purpose of calculation of standard acres.

The bulk of the revenue under Agricultural Income Tax from Kanniyakumari district comes chiefly from rubber. Being next to Coimbatore and the Nilgiris district, Kanniyakumari district occupies the third place in the amount of Agricultural Income Tax assessment realised from districts in the State.

The Agricultural Income Tax Department in this district was being administered by two Agricultural Income Tax Officers in the cadre of Tahsildars. The Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Income Tax, Tirunelveli in the cadre of Deputy Collectors being the Appellate Authority was having jurisdiction over this district till the assessment year 1979-80. Consequent on the re- organisation of the Agricultural Income Tax Department, the two posts of Agricultural Income Tax officers in the district have been upgraded to that of Deputy Collector and the post of Assistant Commissioner has been upgraded to that of District Revenue Officer and his Headquarters shifted to Kanniyakumari district in May 1980. Under the reorganised set up, the Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil is having jurisdiction over the Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli districts.

Kanniyakumari district consists of Nagercoil-I and Nagercoil -II Circles. Nagercoil -I circle consists of the following two taluks, (1) Agasthiswaram (2) Vilavancode. Agasthiswaram taluk is mostly non-plantation area. Vilavancode taluk is plantation area. Nagercoil -II circle consists of Kalkulam and Thovalai taluks. Kalkulam and Thovalai taluks are plantation areas.

The total number of assessees in Nagercoil - I and Nagercoil-II circles is as follows:-

	Nagercoil -I				Nagercoil - II			
(1)	Composition (2)	Return (3)	Marginal (4)	Total (5)	Composition (6)	Return (7)	Marginal (8)	Total (9)
Plantation	339	138	69	546	346	52	145	543
Non - Plantation	103	9	43	155	48	4	41	93
Total	442	147	112	701	394	56	186	636

Gradation adopted and the income derived during the assessment year 1985-86:—

		Nagercoil - I		Nagercoil - II	
(1)		No. of cases (2)	Tax levied (3)	No. of cases (4)	Tax levied (5)
			(RS. IN LAKHS)		
10 to 20	Standard acres	112	–	148	–
20 to 25	"	133	0.72	93	0.05
25 to 30	"	100	0.61	74	0.07
30 to 35	"	95	0.42	74	0.11
35 to 40	"	34	0.36	41	0.08
40 to 45	"	35	0.47	38	0.10
45 to 50	"	38	0.64	14	0.03
50 and above	"	153	44.56	98	2.72
	Total	700	47.78	580	3.16

Grade of Income (1)	Nagercoil - I No. of cases (2)	Nagercoil - I Tax levied (3)	Nagercoil - II No. of cases (4)	Nagercoil - II Tax levied (5)
		(RS. IN LAKHS)		
Upto Rs. 10,000/-	67	–	20	–
Rs. 10,001 to Rs. 15,000/-	23	0.69	14	0.03
Rs. 15.001 to Rs. 25,000/-	11	1.09	4	0.04
Rs. 25,001 to Rs. 40,000/-	15	1.79	4	0.15
Rs. 40,001 to Rs. 50,000/-	4	0.51	–	–
Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 1,00,000/-	11	2.84	2	–
Above Rs. one lakh	13	37.91	12	43.81
Total	144	44.83	56	44.03

The income derived under Agricultural Income Tax during the assessment year 1977-78 to 1985-86 :–

Assessment Year (1)	Nagercoil- I Total No. of cases (2)	Nagercoil- I Tax levied (3)	Nagercoil- I Tax collected (4)	Nagercoil - II Total No. of cases (5)	Nagercoil - II Tax levied (6)	Nagercoil - II Tax collected (7)
		(RS IN LAKHS)			(RS IN LAKHS)	
1977-78	549	28.00	13.21	641	15.06	11.55
1978-79	544	50.09	17.92	643	29.89	17.53
1979-80	502	46.42	34.09	655	35.96	34.04
1980-81	527	46.12	37.61	675	39.98	45.21
1981-82	546	56.21	51.89	672	41.68	40.45
1982-83	542	53.62	47.37	671	41.22	37.19
1983-84	581	64.00	33.80	646	45.47	29.69
1984-85	577	23.20	20.77	632	10.66	6.71
1985-86	577	47.79	41.01	636	47.94	40.61

COLLECTION OF AGRICULTURAL INCOME TAX
(1977-78 TO 1985-86)

Prohibition and Excise : The Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act 1937 was amended by the Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Amendment) Act 1981 and the provisions of the amended Act enabled the Government to grant the privilege of sale of arrack and toddy in retail to the permit holders up to 31 December 1986.

Arrack and Toddy shops : The Government in their order Ms. No. 666 Prohibitions and Excise (II) Department, dated 4 June 1986 have framed the Tamil Nadu Arrack shops (Disposal in Auction) Rules, 1986 for the auction sale of the privilege of arrack retail for the current period from 16 July 1986 to 31 December 1986. The number of shops notified, licensed and kist-fetched may be seen in the Statement – 4 enclosed.

The Government in their Order Ms. No. 696, Prohibition and Excise (II) Department, dated 13 June 1986 have extended the licence period of toddy shops beyond 30 September 1986, i.e. up to 31 Decemeber 1986 and suitably amended the Tamil Nadu Toddy and Arrack shops (Disposal in Auction) Rules, 1981 and Tamil Nadu Toddy Rules, 1981. The number of toddy shops, notified for this current period, licensed and kist-fetched also may be seen in the Statement-4.

Indian Made Foreign Liquor : The Tamil Nadu Liquor (License and permit) Rules, 1981 enabled the conduct of Indian Made Foreign Liquor retail business in this district during the year 1981-82. Among the 27 FLI licenses issued during the year 1981-82, five licences have been cancelled subsequently due to the irregularities noticed in the business. During the year 1986-87, 17 FLI licenses were issued for 39 shops.

Medicinal and Toilet Preparations : The following Rules are to be observed for issue of licenses under various categories:—

(i) Tamil Nadu Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (ED) Rules 1956.

(ii) Tamil Nadu Spirituous Preparations Control Rules 1984.

(iii) Tamil Nadu Narcotic Drug Rules 1955.

(iv) Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit Rules 1958.

(v) Tamil Nadu Rectified Spirit Rules.

(vi) Tamil Nadu Molasses Control Rules.

(vii) Tamil Nadu Chlorohytrate Rules.

There are 28 retail and 25 wholesale licensees (S.P. XIV licence) in this district under the Tamil Nadu Spirituous Preparations Control Rules.

Under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations Rules, 1956, there are 33L2 - Licenses and 27 L3 - licences in this district. "L2" licences are issued to manufacture medicinal and toilet preparations and "L3" licences are issued to Ayurvedic or Siddha or Unani practitioners to manufacture preparations containing self generated alcohol for dispensing to patients and not for trade.

Under the Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirits and Varnish (French polish) Rules 1959, DLI, DL2 and DL4 licences are issued. There is only one DLI licence and 28, DL2 licences issued in this district. Three DL4 licences have been issued in this district.

648 RL licences have been issued under Tamil Nadu Rectified Spirit Rules, 1989 and 3 ML 4/6 licences have been issued under the Tamil Nadu molasses Control Rules.

Commercial Taxes : At the time of States' reorganisation only four offices were functioning in this district, viz., :—

1 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Kuzhithurai

2 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Thuckalay

3 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil

4 Commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil

STATEMENT – 4

No. of arrack and Toddy shops in Kanniyakumari district - 1981-82 to 1986

Excise Year	Shops notified		Shops licensed		Kist -fetched		Total
	Arrack	Toddy	Arrack	Toddy	Arrack	Toddy	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
					(RS. IN LAKHS)	(RS. IN LAKHS)	(RS. IN LAKHS)
1981-82	130	250	130	250	174.09	61.46	235.55
1982-83	130	250	130	250	207.72	100.55	308.27
1983-84	194	250	194	248	218.32	81.50	299.82
1984-85	177	240	177	238	322.53	91.77	414.30
1985-86	*	235	*	226	*	87.97	87.97
1986 current period	177	235	173	179	153.99	18.24	172.23

* During the excise year 1985-86, the arrack retails business was taken over by the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd.

Prior to 31st August 1982, these offices were under Tirunelveli C.T. District which was supervised by the Assistant Commissioner (CT), Tirunelveli. But from 1st September 1982, the administration of these offices is being supervised by the Assistant Commissioner (CT) Nagercoil, due to bifurcation of the Tirunelveli C.T. District into two C.T. districts namely Tirunelveli and Nagercoil. The following offices are now functioning in this district from 1st September 1982 :–

STATEMENT - 5

Amount of Commercial Taxes collected in Kanniyakumari district from 1982-83 to 1985-86.

	1982-83	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
		(RUPEES IN LAKHS)		
TNGST	237.73	272.92	316.63	381.43
CST	26.10	42.69	37.76	41.84
TNET	47.80	45.58	62.94	74.36
TNTLHLH	0.29	0.46	0.42	0.42
Total	411.92	361.65	417.75	498.05

STATEMENT - 6

Amount of revenue realised under various Heads in Marthandam Registration District 1981-82 to 1985-86.

(1)	1981-82 (2)	1982-83 (3)	1983-84 (4)	1984-85 (5)	1985-86 (6)
030 Stamps and Registration C. Stamps	1854.6	200.5	238.9	276.1	911.1
230 Stamps Registration	596.8	60.4	626.6	692.6	942.9
104 Other General Economic Service (a) Regulation of Business undertakings Admn. I.P.Act	0.2	0.5	0.3.	1.1	0.7
065 (c) other services (2) other receipts fees receipts fees realised under spl. marriage Act 1954	–	0.03	–	0.03	0.01
065 - other administration other services other receipts 05-fees realised under the Hindu marriage Act.	0.2	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.7
065 C. AA other Admn. services Other services other economic service AE Regulation other Business undertaking 05 fees under Chit Fund Act 1982.	–	–	–	–	30.2

104	Other General Economic service A Regulation of other Business undertaking Admn. of Tamil Nadu Chit Fund Act 1961	32.0	55.7	6.2	2.5	11.9
065	C. AA Other Admn. services other services 07 other Acts and Regulation of Birth and Death Act 1969	–	–	6.04	1.0	1.2
065	Other General Economic Service (c)other service (e) other receipts fees realised under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 27 of 1975.	3.6	3.1	5.8	3.6	4.6
	Total	2487.4	321.03	885.14	978.53	1904.31

STATEMENT - 7

Registration Department - Revenues - Kanniyakumari Registration District - 1981-82 to 1985-86

Items of Revenue	Years				
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			(IN THOUSANDS)		
Stamps	7543.50	7257.50	7525.20	8520.80	12246.10
Stamps - Registration	1469.70	1540.20	1605.40	1711.40	2084.80
Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act 1961	100.40	180.30	164.20	106.80	34.00
Societies Registration Act	5.60	5.90	9.20	8.60	7.30
Partnership Act	0.90	1.60	3.70	4.70	4.10
Hindu Marriages Act	0.50	1.10	1.40	1.30	1.20
Special Marriages Act	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.02
Births and Deaths and Marriages Act 1969	–	–	–	19.70	63.10
Others	–	–	–	–	–
Total	9120.61	8986.66	9309.12	10473.32	14440.62

1 Commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil (Town)

2 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil (Rural)

3 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil (Tower Junction)

4 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Thuckalay

5 Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Kuzhithurai

6 Deputy commercial Tax Office, Nagercoil
(Enforcement Wing) [Under the control of Assistant. Commissioner. (Enforcement) Tirunelveli.

7 Assistant Commissioner (CT) Nagercoil (Administrative Office)

In addition, two checkposts are functioning one at Kaliakkavilai and another at Chungankadai.

In this C.T. District there are about 5714 dealers registered under TNGST Act 1959 out of which 2708 dealers are paying Sales Tax. The remaining dealers are not liable to pay tax. There are also 32 cinema theatres in the district. The revenue realised under all Acts in this district by the department may be seen in Statement -5.

Registration revenues : After States reorganisation, Kanniyakumari District Registrar's office was started on 2 January 1957 with nineteen Sub-Registrar's offices in the district. On 1 August 1978, Marthandam District Registrars' Office was started with nine Sub-Registrars' Offices in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. The remaining ten Sub-Registrars' offices in Agasthiswaram, Thovalai and Kalkulam taluks remained with Kanniyakumari District Registrar. A Sub-Registrar's office was started at Vadaseri on 15 September 1980 and another was started at Thovalai on 15 July 1981. The revenue derived in the registration districts of Marthandam and Kanniyakumari from 1981-82 to 1985-86 may be seen in Statements-6 and 7 respectively.

Motor Vehicles Tax : The receipts under Motor Vehicles tax in Kanniyakumari district from 1977-78 to 1985-86 may be seen below :–

Year (1)	Amount (2) (RUPEES IN THOUSANDS)
1977-78	13664
1978-79	15433
1979-80	24903
1980-81	24718
1981-82	17400
1982-83	18255
1983-84	19941
1984-85	22627
1985-86	28363

Forest revenues : The main items of forest revenue in Kanniyakumari district are timber like teak rosewood, miscellaneous timber like Aini, Venteak etc., thinned teak poles, firewood, cloves and other minor forest products. Rubber is also another important source of income in Kanniyakumari district. The management of rubber plantation is under the control of the Arasu Rubber Corporation.

The amount of forest revenues realised from 1980-81 to 1985-86 are furnished below:—

Year (1)	Rupees (2) (IN THOUSANDS)
1980-81	9895
1981-82	3603
1982-83	1873
1983-84	3505
1984-85	12985
1985-86	12163

Central Excise : Kanniyakumari district is one of the small district in Tamil Nadu. When there was Central excise duty on tobacco, the district was quite active from central excise point of view. After abolition of duty on tobacco the central excise duty from this district has dwindled considerably. At present one Central Excise Range office is functioning at Nagercoil.

There are two spinning mills, four tread rubber units, one wires and cable unit, 120 match factories, seven tea estates, 17 package tea units and 55 biri units in Kanniyakumari district paying excise duty. There are also small scale units fully exempted from excise duty existing in this range and these units are also exempted from licensing control.

Amount of Central excise revenue realised in Kanniyakumari district from 1981-82 to 1985-86 may be seen below : –

Year (1)	*Revenue (Actuals)* (2)
	(RUPEES IN THOUSANDS)
1981-82	3001.3
1982-83	3730.2
1983-84	4774.1
1984-85	4284.4
1985-86	4467.8

Income Tax : The jurisdiction of the Income-Tax officer, Nagercoil extends to the entire district of Kanniyakumari. As on 30 September 1987, there are 2426 Income tax assessees and 380 Weath-Tax assessees and 76 Gift-tax assessees are borne on the register of Income-tax Office Nagercoil.

The total taxes collected during the last five financial years are as follows :-

Financial Year (1)	I.T. (2)	W.T. (3)	G.T. (4)	Total (5)
			(RS. IN THOUSANDS)	
1982-83	7254	785	97	8136
1983-84	7606	478	102	8186
1984-85	6933	590	102	7625
1985-86	9085	933	112	10130
1986-87	9057	523	109	9689

District Collector : The role of District Collectors has undergone phenomenal change after Independence. Now they are not merely the representatives of the Government in the district interested only in the maintenance of Law and Order and the collection of revenue. They are expected to identify themselves with the people, understand, analyse their problems, find out solutions to them and especially to play vital role in various developmental activities. The Collectors, however, continue to play a very important role with the Revenue Administration also. The following is the list of the Collectors of the Kanniyakumari district from its inception :-

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Collectors who held Office since the formation of Kanniyakumari district. (2)	Period of Office held (3)
1	Thiru. R. Thirumalai, I.A.S.	1.11.1956 - 1.12.1958
2	" J.A. Ambasankar, I.A.S.	2.12.1958 - 17.5.1962
3	" A.S. Venkatraman, I.A.S.	19.6.1962 - 14.12.1962
4	" S.Krishnaswami , I.A.S.	15.12.1962 - 31.1. 1963
5	" C.V.S. Moni, I.A.S.	28.2.1963 - 25.7. 1963
6	" K.J.M. Shetty, I.A.S.	19.8.1963 - 3.8.1964
7	" V.K.C. Natarajan, I.A.S.	4.8.1964 - 26.4.1965
8	" P.B. Krishnaswami,I.A.S.	27.4.1965 - 21.8.1967
9	" C.N. Raghavan,I.A.S.	22.8.1967 - 9.9.1968
10	" R.A. Seetharamdas, I.A.S.	12.10.1968 - 14.2.1970

11	Thiru.	K.S. Ramakrishnan, I.A.S.	7.3.1970 - 22.4.1971
12	"	A.P. Muthuswami, I.A.S.	24.4.1971 - 22.8.1973
13	"	R. Swaminathan, I.A.S.	22.8.1973 - 5.4.1974
14	"	C.Thangaraju, I.A.S.	24.4.1974 - 12.2.1975
15	"	V.T. Thurairaju, I.A.S.	12.2.1975 - 24.5.1976
16	"	V. Sankara Subbaiyan I.A.S.	24.5.1976 - 3.5.1978
17	"	M.K.Balasubramanian, I.A.S.	10.5.1978 - 3.5.1979
18	"	Thurai Sundaresan, I.A.S.	3.5.1979 - 13.2.1980
19	"	A. Abdul Aziz, I.A.S.	14.2.1980 - 26.5.1981
20	"	J.T. Acharyulu, I.A.S.	28.5.1981 - 13.3.1982
21	"	M.B. Pranesh, I.A.S.	14.3.1982 - 19.3. 1983
22	"	L.K. Tripathy, I.A.S.	20.3.1983 - 21.8.1984
23	"	M.Karupiah, I.A.S.	22,8,1984 - 19.9.1985
24	"	S. Munir Hoda, I.A.S.	20.9.1985 - 13.2.1988
25	"	N. Sundradevan, I.A.S.	10.3.1988 -

District Revenue Officers : The District Revenue Officers are appointed to provide meaningful assistance to the Collectors generally in administration and particularly in revenue matters. The following is the list of District Revenue Officers who have served in this district from 1985 when this post was created.

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of District Revenue Officers who held office since the creation of the post* (2)	*Period of Office held* (3)
1	Thiru M. Ganapathy	1.12.1985 - 15.6.1987
2	Thiru B. Subbiah	25.9. 1987 - 24.1.1988
3	Thiru R.Samraj,	24.1.1988 - to-date

* * *

CHAPTER - 12

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Law and Order is, both historically and empirically, a concern of all citizens. Historically, the principle goes back to the pre-historic times, when society was in the formative stage.[1] Maintenance of peace and responsibility of ensuring peaceful living of the people are the prime concern of the police with whom is entrusted the maintenance of law and order. The other allied factor which goes *pari passu* with these two is justice, of which the system of criminal justice is crucial to the suppression of crime. The combination of these i.e. law and order, and justice would attempt to form a ' less crime' society. If we find a complete harmony in a district, then we would be able to conclude that these two systems i.e., the Police and Judiciary function perfectly.

The East India Company which held the country for a very long period adopted the police system according to their taste in the conquered territories to maintain law and order. The police did not encounter any major upheaval in the beginning of the 19th century.[2] In the districts, police organisation was deplorable and haphazard.

To the deplorable condition of the police system and its administration in the beginning of the nineteenth century, the administration of criminal justice could be added. Various laws enacted created confusion in the minds of the general public. People experienced untold sufferings because of the complicated and conflicting procedures adopted in the courts. Experience and added problems made the British Government realise the imperative need for reorganising the judicial administration and making it more agreeable to the minds of the people.

The erstwhile Madras Government was directed by the Court of Directors to remodel its police on the lines of Punjab and Sindh. The erstwhile Madras Government separated administrative set up of police from the revenue as recommended by the Torture Commission and placed the police under a British Officer and recognised the police as a law enforcing independent agency for the prevention and detection of crime.

The revolt of 1857 spurred the Government to enact a series of codes with a view to obviating the distress and discontent caused by the

existence of various kinds of laws in the country. The Government had to undergo a series of experiments before evolving into a distinct system of judicial administration. Several major changes took place in the later half of the 19th century as a result of the revolt of 1857.[3] This was the condition prevailing in the erstwhile Madras Presidency.

The present Kanniyakumari district which came into existence in 1956 was a part of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin state which was under the rule of Maharajas. Therefore, the British laws were not in force there,in the early part of the 19th century, nor was the police force modelled on British lines then.

Organisation of Police Force

Evolution : The Police force in the Kanniyakumari district was first organised by Dewan Ummini Thampi in 1809 and it was known as the 'Kavel' which means "Protection" in Tamil. Its efficiency and discipline cannot be spoken of very high. The police force was so small, only 200 in number, that it was incapable of carrying out its duties in the best interest of the people.[4] Colonel Munro who succeeded Ummini Thampi as the Dewan of Travancore found the police force in a very unsatisfactory state and wanted to reorganise this set up on a sound basis, so that good Government might be ensured.[5]

Towards this end in view, he introduced reforms to strengthen the police force. He deprived the Karyakars and the village officials of their police powers. This in itself was a revolutionary move for the Karyakars, who according to the original system obtaining in the Travancore State, wielded great influence and authority as a result of their police power and power to collect revenues for the State.

A comprehensive attempt to refer the police organisation was made in 1834, when the first Regulation Act was passed to the same effect. In 1854-55, new revenue divisions were formed and the present Kanniyakumari district was then included in the revenue division of Padmanabhapuram under the control of a Peishkar. The Peishkar exercised power of general control and supervision in all matters like revenue, magisterial and police subject to the orders of the Dewan who was the head of the Administration and Chief Magistrate, he acted as the Divisional Superintendent of Police.[6] The Tahsildar was the highest police authority in the taluk and was under the general supervision of the

Peishkar.[7] The police force consisted of some police officers like Cotwalls, Police Naiks, Amindars, Mudappars, etc.

The Combination of both executive and magisterial powers in the hands of the one person presented a serious drawback in carrying out the executive duties of the police and the impartial administration of criminal justice. Until 1860, the police administration was directly under the Magistracy and formed part of their official staff. Each Taluk Magistrate had under him one Police Naik, from one to four Moodapars and a number of peons varying in proportion to the importance of the taluk.

Besides these, there were officials employed in districts who were known as Extra Police Officers. Each of these had range comprising two or three Taluks and was assisted by staff of Naiks, Moodapars and Peons.

These officials were under the immediate orders of the Division Peishkars or District Magistrates. They were expected to proceed to the scene of every grave crime and investigate the same. The salaries paid were 10 Sircar rupees for a Naik, Rs. 5/- for a Moodapar and Rs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ for a peon. Extra Police Officers drew from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 65/-.

His Highness, the late Maharaja placed the reorganisation of the police system and entrusted Dewan Ramaengar with the task of drawing up a scheme for carrying out this design. Accordingly, in 1881, Dewan Ramaengar took the initiative for the reorganisation of the police administrative set up and submitted a report to the Maharaja of Travancore in which he advocated the separation of police from the Magistracy," so as to leave the latter with an unbiased mind, in disposing of cases and secondly to improve the personnel of the Force."[8] He also insisted on the enforcement of educational qualifications for the police personnel and attractive salaries for the posts. He also stressed the necessity of giving systematic training to the new recruits. A regulation based on the recommendations of Dewan Ramaengar and on the provisions of the Madras Police Act, was passed in 1881. The reorganisation was completed by 1882. In 1882, there was one policeman to every 4.8 sq. miles of the country and to every 12,724 of the population.

The year 1919 saw further reforms in the police organisation. The police in the Kanniyakumari district was placed under the general control and jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Police, who was the head of the

police administration in Travancore State. The control of the Police within the district was vested in the District Superintendent of Police who was assisted by an Asst-District Superintendent. The district police officials were under the direct control of the District Magistrate.

Further reform of the Police Department was taken up in 1938. The Head of the Department was designated as Inspector General of Police, instead of Commissioner of Police. The District Superintendent was put in charge of maintaining Law and Order in Kanniyakumari district and to effectively conduct the police administration within the area.

In 1956, the reorganisation was effected which brought the areas in the present Kanniyakumari district to Tamil Nadu, from the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State. Hence, the pattern of police force and other administrative matters had to naturally take a recourse to the Tamil Nadu pattern.

Organisation of Police Force at present, in the District[10] : At present, the administration of the police in the district is under the immediate control of the District Superintendent of Police, who is under the general control of the District Collector. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by one Additional Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police. Both are solely incharge of prohibition squad. Besides, there are five Deputy Superintendents of Police, of which three for Sub-divisions, one for the District Crime Records Branch, and the Protection of Civil Rights and the last for the Armed Reserve Force.

Tamil Nadu is divided into seven ranges and 25 police districts, of which Kanniyakumari district is included in the Tirunelveli Range under the control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police.

The three sub-divisions are at Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Colachel which are placed under the supervision and control of three Deputy Superintendents of Police. The Nagercoil sub-division has two circles i.e. Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari and 10 police stations. The Thuckalay Sub-division functions with quite identical number of circles namely Thuckalay and Vilavancode and seven police stations. The Colachel sub-division has two circles viz., Colachel and Eraniel with eight police stations. Apart from these police stations, each sub-division has its own out-posts and traffic wings.

Two police stations, exclusively with women police officials to deal with women criminals are also functioning in the district one at Kottar and the other at Kanniyakumari.

The details of the Police Stations, Out-posts and Traffic Police stations and the strength of the Police Force in the district are furnished in the table below.

Table

Sl. No.	*Police Stations*
(1)	*(2)*
1	Kottar (P.S)
2	Kottar (Women Wing)
3	Vadasery (P.S.)
4	Kottar (Traffic)
5	Boothapandi (P.S.)
6	Nesamony Nager (P.S.)
7	Asari Pallam (O.P.)
8	Kottar (Central Crime Station)
9	Kottar (Police Control Room)
10	Kanniyakumari (P.S.)
11	Kanniyakumari (Women Wing)
12	Kanniyakumari (Traffic)
13	Suchindram (P.S.)
14	Aralvoimozhi (P.S.)
15	Anjugramam (P.S.)
16	Thuckalay (P.S.)
17	Thuckalay (Traffic)
18	Kottiyode (O.P.)

19	Kulasekaram (P.S.)
20	Upper Kodayar (P.S.)
21	Lower Kodayar (P.S.)
22	Keeriparai (P.S.)
23	Kuzhithurai (P.S)
24	Kuzhithurai (Traffic)
25	Thiruvattar (P.S.)
26	Arumanai (P.S.)
27	Kadayalumodu (O.P.)
28	Kaliyakkavilai (P.S.)
29	Palugal (O.P.)
30	Colachel (P.S)
31	Colachel (Traffic)
32	Kottencode (P.S.)
33	Puthukadai (P.S.)
34	Nithiravilai (P.S.)
35	Karingal (P.S.)
36	Eraniel (P.S.)
37	Eraniel (Traffic)
38	Manavalakurichi (P.S.)
39	Rajakkamangalam (P.S.)
40	Lower Kodayar (P.S.)
41	District Crime Branch -Ozhukinasery
42	Protection of Civil Rights Wing, Ozhukinasery
43	District Special Branch, Nagercoil
44	Armed Reserve-Nagercoil.

During 1965 the strength of the police in the district was 810 inclusive of both officers and constabulary,[11] with the explosion of population, urbanisation and vast improvements in the various fields, it had become neccesary to increase the strength of the police. As against the strength of 810 in 1965, the number increased gradually in the various branches of the police and has reached a strength of 1670 in 1988. According to 1981 census the population of the district was 14,23,399. Hence, compared to the strength of police in 1981, the ratio works out to one policeman for every 852 citizens.

The strength of the Police Force (categorywise) functioning in the district, is given in the table below [12] :—

		SP	ADSP	DSP	Ins.	SIs	HCs	Cons.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Regular Police	1	–	4	14	58	85	959
2	Prohibition Squad	–	1	1	4	6	8	89
3	Anti-corruption squad	–	–	–	3	–	3	3
4	Armed Reserve	–	–	1	1 (R1)	11 (RS1)	38	380
	Total	1	1	6	22	75	134	1431

Law and Order Situation in Kanniyakumari District : Kanniyakumari is generally a tranquil district where the law and order problems were a few and far between. However, the beginning of this decade has witnessed a few law and order problems which were not only serious but strained the human relations and social atmosphere.

The Police Administration Reports of the years 1977 to 1986 reveal incidents which caused law and order problems in the district. Law and Order problems created by lorry drivers, auto drivers, students and some religious groups have been generally explained therein.

Incidents arising out of communal clash between two religious groups were found to be common every year since 1977. The Thengapattinam incident between Muslims and Christian fishermen in 1977, the incident at Suchindram between Harijans and other caste Hindus also in 1977, the

Hindu-Muslim clash in Kaliakkavilai in 1978 and another Hindu-Muslim clash in Thuckalay in 1979 are a few that need mention.

. While a fisherman, (Christian) of Ramanthurai was fishing at Thengapattinam on 20 April 1977, a Muslim demanded fish, free of cost, which the fisherman refused.[13] Hence, when the former came to the shop of a Muslim along with his friend the next day, the Muslims waylaid and picked up a quarrel and stabbed the fishermen. On hearing this, about 300 fishermen gathered and attacked about 300 Muslims gathered there. As a result two fishermen and five Muslims got simple injuries. Police brought the situation under control and after the formation of Peace Committee, normalcy was restored.

In the Suchindrum incident, the clash occurred between Harijans on one side, Nadars, Vellalar and Thevars on the other on 16 August 1977. It all started when the caste Hindus questioned the Harijans when the latter took a funeral procession through the Panchayat Street ignoring the usual path. The altercation resulted in a clash causing injuries to either side. The police brought the situation under control.

The 1978 communal clash at Kaliakkavilai occurred between fishermen and Muslims, when the former formed their own 'Fishermen Sangam', as they were dissatisfied with the one dominated by the Muslims and started auctioning fish at Kaliakkavilai, on 4th August 1978.[14] As this was objected to by the Muslims, a wordy duel started developed into an attack in which the Muslims assaulted the fishermen. When the fishermen brought fish in a lorry for auctioning at Kaliakkavilai, one was stabbed and another got injured. On the night of 4th August 1978, a Peace Committee Meeting was convened with the representatives of Muslims and fishermen and both the parties agreed to maintain peace.

The 1979 incident in Thuckalay between the Muslims and Hindus of Vettikonam village erupted on a dispute over the usage of a pathway through Palli street inhabited by Muslims.[15] While the Muslims claimed that the street was their private property, the Hindus claimed it to be a poramboke land. The Muslims did not allow the Ayyappa devotees to pass through the street. This resulted in a clash between the Muslims and Hindus on 12 January 1979. A peace committee meeting was held in the presence of the District Collector and Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari with the representatives of both the groups, and it was settled by making Palli street as a pucca thoroughfare for the use of the people. There was no further incident.

The year 1982 was one of the eventful and problamatic years for the police as well as Revenue administration as the law and order situtation in that year became worse and the tranquility had suffered to a greater extent. The cause for the concern was the Mondaikadu incident in 1982, when a major law and order problem arose between Hindus and Christian fishermen.

This district is noted for its high percentage of literacy and religious harmony, social amity and harmony among the people of this area are the realistic features. Though there were communal clashes between fishermen and Nadars, fishermen and Muslims, Nadars and Krishnavagai community, etc., there were no large scale religious clashes involving Hindus and Christians as a whole, till October in the year 1981.

By the end of 1981, there were frequent clashes between Hindus and Christians in the district. A few stray incidents which first started in Thuckalay and Kulasekaram on the Christmas eve, subsequently spread over the coastal villages.

In March 1982, there was a major incident at Mondaikadupudur, a coastal village, in which six fishermen died due to police firing, 40 persons including 25 police personnel sustained injuries, conseqent on the religious clash between the Christian fishermen and Hindus at the time of Mondaikadu temple festival.[16]

Mondaikadu is situated in Manavalakurichi village of Kalkulam taluk and this temple which is on the sea shore, is at a distance of three kilometres east of Colachel and 16 km. west of Nagercoil [17] and is said to be dated back to the 7th century B.C.[18] Until the merger of the area with Madras State in 1956, this temple was under the control of Trivandrum Devasvam. After 1956, this is being maintained by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu, dedicated to the Goddess Bhagavathi Amman, who is considered to be very famous and powerful deity of this area. The deity is believed to be in the form of ant hill about 12 feet in height, which people believe grows day by day.[19] The 'Amman' is feared to be very powerful.

Hindus used to gather in large numbers from far and near places, especially from the adjacent Kerala State at the time of annual festival known as 'Mondaikkadu kodai' which takes place in the Tamil month of 'Masi' i.e March every year and is celebrated for 10 days.

Till the end of 1982, the festival was celebrated peacefully and without any problem. However, these long years have developed a strained feeling between the Christians and Hindus of this district. As a result, the Christians of Mondaikadupudur resented the Hindus, while passing through their village, to have their usual holy dip in the sea. The menace of the loudspeakers around the temple, at the time of the festival and their supposed offensive references to Christianity strengthened the ill feeling and widened the gap between these two religious groups. This was an added cause for the resentment of the fishermen, who illuminated a shrine situated on the path leading to the beach and started playing records. Under instructions from the Collector of Kanniyakumari, the Sub-Collector, Padmanabhapuram held talks between both the groups and persuaded them and brought out a calm atmosphere. Thus, their problematic and offensive activities, were put an end to.

The Police Administration report goes to show that on 1 March 1982 about 2000 to 3000 strong Christian fishermen started ransacking the shops, attacking the Hindus, molesting Hindu women devotees, and attacking the police.[20] In the scuffle, 25 policemen were injured. As a last resort, the police opened fire which resulted in the death of six fishermen and injuries to 15 fishermen. Later on, there was a heavy funeral procession from Colachel to Mondaikadupudur. Infuriated by this firing, the fishermen started indulging in violent activites, alleging that the firing and other actions of police were due to influence and false allegations of RSS against the fishermen. Since their devotees were not allowed to take their holy dip in the sea, the Hindus got aggravated and indulged in violent activities. Thus rose a major religious problem and this was the cause for several subsequent clashes and incidents that occurred in Kanniyakumari district in 1982. Following this incident, there were series of incidents of lawlessness involving heavy damages to properties and also to human lives.

Again, there was a police firing at Melamanakudy, a coastal village on the night of 15 March, 1982 in which two fishermen were killed. A group of Hindu extremists damaged the houses of fishermen, looted household articles, fishing nets, etc. and smashed the entire village Pallam by setting fire and the damage was estimated to be more than Rs.30 lakh. There was, however, no loss of human life in this incident. In another clash occurred in April 1982 between Hindus and Christians at Colachel (Kalimar Bridge), the mob refused to disperse and were menacingly

advancing, despite goadings and several warnings by police. As a last resort, the police opened fire and thereafter, the entire mob dispersed.

In between March and December 1982, about 50 clashes involving different groups of people had occurred, resulting in damages to properties and bodily injuries. Though these sporadic incidents caused much concern to the authorities no serious clashes were witnessed nor was major lawlessness or mob violence occurred in March 1982. [21]

At the instance of the Collector and Superintendent of Police of Kanniyakumari, series of Peace Committees held in April and May 1982 strengthened peace,eased tension, and paved the way for permanent peace in the district.

Under the instructions from the Collector and Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thuckalay and Sub-Collector, Padmanabhapuram held Peace Commitee on 3 January 1982 at Thuckalay. The Christians and Hindus assured to keep peace and there was no incidence for sometime. A district level peace committee consisting of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Tirunelveli Range, the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district and the Collector of Kanniyakumari district, was held on 18 January 1982 which was attended by leaders from all religious and political parties. An all party religious procession was taken out on 30 January 1982 at Kulasekaram, headed by the Collector and the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district, following a decision taken in the above peace Committee meeting. The religious and political leaders appealed the public to keep peace, abjuring violence.

Another district level Peace Committee Meeting after Mondaikadu Police firing was held on 6 March 1982 at Collectorate, Nagercoil under the Chairmanship of Collector, Kanniyakumari district and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Tirunelveli Range and the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district also participated, besides other non-officials. Subsequent Peace Committee Meetings were held on 10 April 1982, 2 May 1982, 3 May 1982, 10 May 1982, 23 May 1982 and 30 May 1982 at Eathamozhy, Ammandivilai, Colachel, Kanniyakumari, Melakrishnanpudur, Mondaikadu and Thuthoor respectively.[22] The series of Peace Committees held during April and May 1982 strengthened the peace in the district.

As per the Administration Report of the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district, the district was free from major violent communal clashes during the year 1983, as also free from communal tension between the Hindus and Christians when compared with the year 1982. The Hindu Munnani had planned to conduct the Second Hindu Resurgence Conference at Nagercoil on 13 February 1983 but this was banned. As prohibitory orders were violated and a large crowd indulged in violence, despite warnings by police, the police as a last resort, opened fire, resulting in death of one person. Subsequently, the conference was held at Nagercoil on 11 September 1983 with adequate police protection. The annual festival of Bhagavathi Amman temple, Mondaikadu, was held from 27 February 1983 to 8 March 1983, without any untoward incidents. Generally, law and order situation was well under control and peaceful during the year 1983.[23]

Kanniyakumari district was free from major and violent communal or political clashes during the year 1984, so also free from communal tension except a few stray incidents.[24] During July and August 1984, there were incidents of assault by the members of Hindu Front, protesting against attack on the State Organiser. There were incidents of assault between the members of Nadar Mahajana Sangam and Hindu Front and prompt action was taken by Police and Revenue Officials then and there firmly and further representations averted.

The district was free from any major and violent political clashes, during the year 1985.[25] However, there were outbreaks of breach of peace, due to communal incidents at Kollencode, which resulted in Police firing causing two deaths and injuries to four persons and the incidents at Eathamozhi, Pannimalai (Kondakattimalai) and Perinchakonam which were settled then and there by stern action by Police and Revenue officials under the leadership of the then collector of Kanniyakumari and the tension was in no way allowed to escalate.

Police firing and connected incidents in 1985 : Kollencode Police Station in Colachel Subdivision is the bordering station to Kerala. Jurisdiction includes three coastal villages of Nerodithurai, Marthandanthurai Vallavilaithurai inhabited by Roman Catholic fishermen with a population about 8 to 10,000. Two other villages are inhabited by Hindu Nairs, Christian Nadars, and small population of Muslims and Hindu Arayas who are fishermen by community live in the areas adjacent to coastal villages. There are 200 families of about 1,000 population of

Arayas. The coastal village of Pozhiyoor inhabited by RC fishermen is the next adjoining village in Kerala with a population of about 30,000.

On 8 August 1985, a clash between Hindus and Christian fishermen occurred in Pinkulam, following a wordy quarrel and exchange of blows, between a Hindu front member and a Christian. Sequel to this, on 19th August 1985, about 1000 strong such mob of Christian fishemen set fire to the houses of Hindus and about 200 of them armed with deadly weapons gathered at Vallaisalai village for a show down with the Hindus. The Police who entered to avert major clash were attacked by irate fishermen causing injuries to four police personnel. As the situation went out of control police opened fire in self defence and two fishermen died and another two were injured.

On 21 August 1985, a peace committee was held by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police at Kuzhithurai. The M.L.As of Vilavancode and Padmanabhapuram and Parish Priest of concerned coastal villages, representatives from Hindus, Arayas, Muslims and Christians attended the peace committee meeting. D.S.P., Colachel and R.D.O., Padmanabhapuram also participated.

It was resolved to live in peace by maintaining communal harmony.It was also decided to send a team with Deputy Superintendent of Police, Colachel, Revenue Divisional officer, Padmanabhapuram, 2 M.L.As and the Parish Priests to rehabilitate the affected people on both sides on the next day morning. Accordingly, they went on 22 August 1985 and attended the rehabilitation and relief measures.

In the year 1986 also, the district was free from any major and violent communal or political clashes.[26] There occurred only a very few minor clashes which were prevented from developing into major ones by the timely intervention and stern action of the police and the then Collector of Kanniyakumari.

As regards prohibition, violation of prohibition laws is a common feature in the district. The existence of hilly tracts and inaccessibility of the region make it rather difficult for the police to enforce the law effectively. The statistical data pertaining to the common crimes for the past 20 years given in Tables 1 to 3 below, would reveal the state of affairs with regard to crimes in the district.

TABLE – 1

Grave crime

(1)	1969 (2)	70 (3)	71 (4)	72 (5)	73 (6)	74 (7)	75 (8)	76 (9)	77 (10)	78 (11)	79 (12)	80 (13)	81 (11)	82 (15)	83 (16)	84 (17)	85 (18)	86 (19)	87 (20)	88 (21)
1 Murder	19	25	11	22	21	19	26	12	22	32	30	36	39	42	44	38	44	43	56	9
2 Dacoity	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3 Robbery	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	4	1	8	3	6	10	10	10	3	2
4 House breaking	124	125	123	121	135	186	164	154	242	261	223	230	273	231 /	336	272	260	225	160	54
5 Thefts	188	180	243	232	237	219	194	291	289	414	349	407	451	340 /	497 ,	329	296	243	270	75
6 Cattle Thefts	11	16	22	11	12	11	16	11	11	22	6	12	13	13 /	10	3	8	4	9	–
TOTAL	343	347	399	386	405	435	400	468	565	931	612	686	785	629/	893	702	618	525	498	140

Source : Police Administration Report, Kanniyakumari district.

NUMBER OF GRAVE CRIMES

(1969 to 1988)

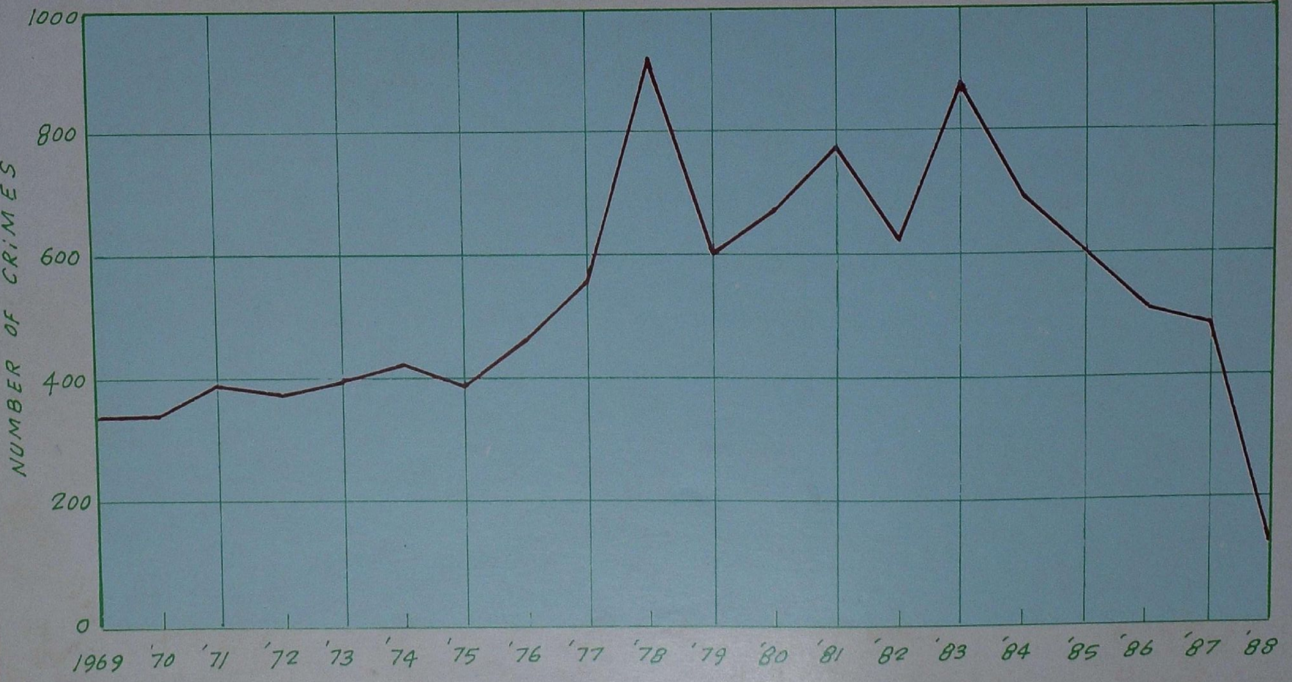


TABLE – 2

True cases of Cognisable Crimes : Analysis of offences under various classes I to VI

(1)	1969 (2)	70 (3)	71 (4)	72 (5)	73 (6)	74 (7)	75 (8)	76 (9)	77 (10)	78 (11)	79 (12)	80 (13)	81 (14)	82 (15)	83 (16)	84 (17)	85 (18)	86 (19)
Class I.	79	77	106	69	105	40	41	126	224	205	141	348	62	891	517	531	743	701
Class II.	214	220	287	419	341	461	365	386	608	564	684	725	876	1074	896	827	937	1053
Class III.	127	131	156	139	147	219	185	185	290	288	240	264	315	387	499	357	359	299
Class IV.	25	17	59	38	114	69	89	116	160	167	298	73	64	216	272	201	255	227
Class V.	270	289	387	343	311	311	375	509	440	595	525	504	637	558	660	533	403	346
Class VI.	60	93	67	77	36	13	19	59	330	364	630	463	361	518	139	631	315	746
TOTAL	775	827	1062	1085	1081	1113	1034	1381	2052	2183	2518	2427	2875	3644	2983	3080	3014	3372

Class I. Offences Against public tranquility safety & justice
Class II. Serious offences against persons
Class III. Serious offences against property and persons or property
Class IV. Minor offences against persons
Class V. Minor offences against property
Class VI. Other Offences under IPC Act mentioned above

Source : Report received from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district, dated 28 July 1988

TABLE – 3

Properites Lost and Recovered by the Police in Kanniyakumari District *

Year	*Property lost*	*Property recovered*	*Percentage of recovery*
1979	374595	148094	39.5
1980	635809	173813	27.3
1981	1024344	428619	41.8
1982	901606	460084	51. 3
1983	1896420	1000044	52.0
1984	1867068	712968	38.2
1985	806836	393426	48.8
1986	948841	535844	56.5
1987	993158	359438	36.2

* Report from the Director General of Police, Madras, dated 20 December 1988.

TABLE – 4
Performance of the finger print bureau

(1)	1978 (2)	1979 (3)	1980 (4)	1981 (5)	1982 (6)	1983 (7)	1984 (8)	1985 (9)	1986 (10)	1987 (11)
1 No. of scenes of crimes visited by the staff	309	266	269	310	225	321	290	256	236	212
2 No.of cases in which prints were developed	102	77	60	120	82	95	71	76	82	70
3 No. of cases in which prints identified with inmates	42	38	27	46	25	52	34	25	14	14
4 No. of cases in which prints identified with criminals	16	10	11	30	22	25	13	25	36	21
5 Cases detected as a result of identification made	11	21	14	34	–	75	20	8	57	19
6 No. of criminals recorded in this Bureau	2878	3071	3062	3286	3400	3516	3662	3768	3882	3979
7 No. of daily arrest Finger Prints Slips received for comparison	683	574	704	664	838	1793	2372	2625	2335	2359
8 No. of conviction memos scrutinized and sent to FPB, Madras	470	314	303	303	254	506	481	426	541	406

Source : Report from the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district, dated 28 July 1988.

Table 1 relating to grave crimes shows that the number of murder has increased from 19 in 1969 to 56 in 1987. Dacoity is almost nil and robbery albeit on the increase and static at 10 for 1984, 1985 and 1986, is comparatively negligible. It has lessened in subsequent years. House breaking and theft are the two common offences and are large in number, but with varying trend.

From table 2, it is apparent that offenders are found more in class II i.e., serious offences against person and Class III i.e. serious offences against person and property. The number of such offences are found to be increasing every year, as the number of class II offence which was 220 in 1970, had risen to 775 in 1980 and 1053 in 1986. Similarly, serious offences against person and property or property alone have increased from 131 in 1970 to 264 in 1980 and 299 in 1986. The largest number of offences committed under this class is 499 in 1983. The number of minor offences against property is also on the increase,though the number of offences relating to other categories is comparatively lesser. Thus increasing trend from year to year in almost all classes of offences is noticeable.

Table 3 reveals an increase in properties lost each year. It is found to be very high during 1983 and 1984 owing to increase in the number of offences against property. But about only 50 per cent of the properties could be recovered.

The development in the field of Science and Technology and the growing use of computer have helped to modernise management systems all over the world. Tamil Nadu Police has fully availed of these systems and has introduced new techniques in areas, involving crime statistics and crime detection.

With a view to exploit the proper and optimum use of scientific techniques in the crime prevention strategies and other allied police duties, the police computer wing was formed in the State in 1971 under the Central scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces.

Any classified police data can be transmitted to police officials over a great distances for identifying fingerprints and other related information at short notice, now. In Kanniyakumari district, the police computer wing receives input forms in all property cases, advisory memos from police computer wing, Madras and online enquires. These advisory memos received from computer wing is often useful to the investigating officials to unearth considerable number of property cases.

Finger Print Bureau : The scientific tools of investigation are of great value to resolve crime requiring such application nowadays. Considering the intricacy of the mode of operation of the present day criminals, the Government have been continuously exploring all avenues to introduce innovative resources to combat the issue. One such measure is the establishment of Finger Print Bureau in the State and the single digit print sections in all the police districts. The single digit finger print bureau, Kanniyakumari district is a special unit functioning under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari. This Bureau has started functioning from 16 June 1972 with one Superintendent, three Finger Print Experts and three Finger Print Searchers.

This Bureau renders help to the investigating officers in the detection of crimes. The experts manning these sections visit the scenes of crime reported in the district, under house thefts, house breakings, decoity, robbery, murder and automobile theft cases. They process the finger impressions in the scenes of crime, lift them and refer to the single digit

records. The prints thus collected are identified with persons, who are responsible for the crimes. Apart from this, the service of this bureau is also utilised to take the finger prints of the unknown dead body and its identity is established.

The cases which still remain undetected after processing of records of the Single Digit Sections and the Finger Print Bureau, Madras, are taken, compared and searched in the Finger Print Bureau records of the other States if the criminal is suspected to be from those States, till they are located. It is a fact that many cases of grave nature have been detected through this method.

To achieve the best result of identification, the finger prints of potential criminals convicted under cognizable offences under section 454 or 457 or 380 IPC and 381 IPC, are taken and kept on record.

The cases regarding dacoity, robbery and murder for gain are classified under Battley System and arranged. In this connection, the Finger Print Slips of dossier criminals and habitual offenders are also recorded.

The finger prints of suspected persons arrested in various police stations of this district are sent to this bureau for onward transmission to the Finger Print Bureau, Madras, to note their antecedents. The scene of crime prints are also compared with this Finger Print slips, before they are despatched to the Finger Print Bureau, Madras. The conviction memos prepared for the convicted cases in the police stations are also sent to this bureau. They are scrutinized and forwarded to the Finger Print Bureau, Madras to assign FPB serial number.

The unidentified scene of Crime Prints from all the other districts are received by this bureau and compared with the Finger Prints of potential criminals of this District. If the criminals of this district have operated in any other districts, their identity is established through prints.

The performance of this bureau since 1978 to 1987, is given in table-4.[28]

Many complicated cases which stand without any clue, are successfully identified by this bureau through chance prints. As Kerala is the border to Kanniyakumari district, the criminals from Kerala State are frequently operating in this district and their involvements are brought to light only by this bureau.

Special Branch : The District Special Branch is functioning at Nagerocil with one Inspector, three sub-Inspectors, six head constables and three constables. The main duties of the staff of the special branch are to watch and collect advance intelligence regarding the activities of all political parties, trade unions, all Government employees association, communal situations and other law and order problems, and to pass on information to higher officials and Govenment as well. Apart from this the activities of the foreigners, students and extremists are also being watched and informations furnished.

The Special Branch staff did a commendable service, during the Mondaikadu incident in 1982, by furnishing advance information to the Government and averted major incidents at Saral, Santhapuram and Koliencode villages. Due to the advance information given by the staff, the major festivals in this district, were smoothly celebrated.

Prohibition Enforcement Wing : The prohibition wing attends to the enforcement of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act 1937, and the rules made thereunder. This wing is supervised by a Deputy Inspector General of Police at the state level, and by the zonal superintendent of police at the district level.

There are four units viz., Nagercoil, Thuckalay, Kuzhithurai and Arumanai functioning in Kanniyakumari district. Each unit is placed under the control of one Inspector, two sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables, two grade I Police Constables and 18 Grade II constables.

The Enforcement units are shouldered with the responsibilities of stamping out illicit distillation, transport and sale of arrack and smuggling of Indian Made Foreign Liquor from neighbouring states in order to check erosion of excise revenue due to the *State Exchequer*. They are also required to check misuse of rectified spirit and molasses allotted to respective licence holders.

Protection of Civil Rights : This Unit is functioning in Kanniyakumari district with the staff comprising one Inspector, two Sub-inspectors, one statistical Inspector, two Head Constables and two constables since 11 September 1979. They are functioning under the control of the Deputy superintendent of Police, District Crime Records Bureau and under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Protection of Civil Rights Act, with

headquarters at Madras, is monitoring the enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act.

The staff of this unit visits the entire district for the purpose of investigation of cases pertaining to Protection of Civil Rights Act. A separate Research-*cum*-Analysis wing consisting of one Economist, and one Sociologist also conduct surveys in villages prone to untouchability and send reports to the District Collector for redressal of grievances. Officials of this wing in the district closely co-ordinate with other officials for ensuring strict implementation of the policies of the government in providing several basic amenities like drinking water, street lights, house-sites, and pathway to burial grounds to the weaker sections of the society

In Kanniyakumari district, 23 cases in 1986 and 28 cases in 1987, were registered by PCR Act Wing. This unit also supervises the cases of atrocities registered by the local police.

Police Control Room : The Nagercoil Police Control Room was incepted on 20 April 1974 with a strength of one Inspector of Police, three sub-Inspectors, six Grade I Police Constables and nine Grade II constables. It is functioning in three shifts round the clock. A section of Armed Reserve men are being kept as striking force at control room, in order to attend any emergency in addition to regular strength. The main functions of the Control Room is to attend emergency calls and fire calls. An average of three to four calls a day are being attended to by it.

Armed Reserve : Armed Reserve Force is functioning in Kanniykumari district with the strength of one Reserve Inspector, 12 Reserve Sub-Inspectors, 38 Head Constables, 10 Grade I Police Constables and 370 Police Constables. The Main duty of this force is to maintain law and order, and to provide security to the very Important Persons.

Women Police Force :. Two women police stations, one at Kanniyakumari and the other at Kottar, are functioning, each with one woman sub-Inspector, one woman Head constable and 10 Grade I Women Police Constables in the district.

The women Police Constables are trained like all other police constables, and their duties are of special nature. These duties are classified as :—

1. Bandobust at festivals (*vide* details below) where ladies are expected to assemble ; 2. Arresting of women and juvenile offenders ; 3. Checking of women offenders ; 4. Escorting to and from courts of women and juvenile offenders ; 5. Traffic regulation near schools ; and 6. Accompanying raiding parties, who raid brothels.

Home Guards : This organisation functions in the district with the strength of 166 men homeguards and 56 women homeguards. The Area Commander and Deputy Area Commander are incharge of the Home Guard. The Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari district is the Commander of the Home Guards in the district. A Reserve sub-Inspector sanctioned from the cadre strength of the district police unit, looks after the cash transactions and other official correspondence. The Home Guards attend parades, and are also deputed for traffic duties, night patrols, election duties and bandobust duties.

JAILS

Evolution : The Administrative system of Travancore reveals that formerly there were only two jails-one at Trivandrum and the other at Quilon, for securing the convicts maintained by the Sirkar and they were employed to repair the roads, etc. every day.[29]

The jails were formerly under the medical charge of Native Physicians whose pay was mere six or seven rupees per mensem which resulted in uncleanliness and excessive mortality. About 1860 A.D. the medical charge was transferred to the Durbar Physician as Principal Medical Officer of Government and to each jail was attached medical subordinates.

The 1862-63 Administrative Report mentions, besides, the three principal jails at Trivandrum, Quilon and Allepey, small jails had been attached to Zillah Criminal Courts chiefly for the confinement of prisoners under trial.[30]

Even when the number of jails was raised to four in 1872-73, no jail existed in the present Kanniyakumari area. All the jails were under the general control of the Dewan. The charge of the jails was vested with the Superintendents or Jailers.

The prisoners were locked up at night and were guarded by jail warders and brigade sepoys. Prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment had no work, while those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment had work of various kinds like repairing of roads, garden work, carting provisions, drawing water for cooking and cleaning purposes, making their own fetters, etc. Brahmins and females of all classes were exempt form hard labour or labour of any kind.

Food supplied to prisoners varied depending on the nature of their imprisonment and work. Civil debtors were paid by their creditors at the rate of five *chs.* each per day through the Courts. All prisoners, except civil debtors, were given a cloth every six month and a carpet every third year.

An hospital, located in a separate building was attached to the jail and the prisoners taken ill were removed to this hospital. At the time of epidemics, suffering prisoners were removed to the Jail Hospital, while ordinary patients were treated within the jail building.

A Sub-Assistant Surgeon was the head of the Jail Medical Wing and he was assisted by two Apothecaries. Interviews with pleaders and relatives were permitted daily.

No remission system, whatsoever, existed. The Superintendent of the Central Jail was authorised to inflict six cuts on the back with a rattan for insubordination or breach of jail discipline but there was no deprivation of food, as one of the punishments.

At that time, there was no authorised Code of Prison Regulations in force. There was one Court jail at Nagercoil.[31]

In 1880, steps were taken towards the reformation of jail administration based on a report submitted by the Superintendent of Central Jail, who was sent to the British jail at Cannanore to study the jail discipline and the system of jail administration in vogue there. As a result, intramural labour was slowly and gradually introduced in the Central Jail. Native cloths, cotton carpet, coir rugs, chain fetters and carts for jail use were manufactured by convict labour.[32]

The scale of dietary was revised and improved on the pattern of British Prisons. During 1881-82, a printing press was established. Provision was made for the inspection of the jail by official visitors. Provision was also made for the release of convicts suffering from incurable diseases, disabling them for ever from the commission of crimes.

During 1890-91, a set of rules sanctioned by the Maharaja provided for the grant of a small money to destitute convicts on their release, to enable them to reach their homes. For this purpose, the Superintendent was given a permanent advance of Rs.15 a month. A committee, with the Durbar Physician as President, was appointed. In 1895-96, a regulation was passed adopting the British Indian Enactment (1894 Act). To acquaint himself with the details of prison administration, the Superintendent was sent on deputation to Madras and Vellore.

During 1896-97, some of the recommendations of the Jail Committee were adopted which were (a) Introduction of convicts ticket. (b) introduction of fortnightly weighments. (c) adoption of steps for the recognition of habitual offenders (d) introduction of dietary prescribed in the Prison Rules, etc.[33] The next year, the Prisons Regulation was fully brought into operation, Some of the important features of this are disbandment of police guard attached to jail, abolition of extramural labours, introduction of remission system and the introduction of taking finger impressions of the convicts.

In 1898-99, the system of taking anthropometrical measurement of the convicts was discontinued and taking of finger tip impressions was substituted in its place. The system of awarding Good Conduct stripes to warders was also introduced in this year.

Though not much was expressed about the district Jail, the management of the Central Jail has always been favourably commented upon by high authorities as jail visitors.

Until 1956, whatever the prison administration system was in force in erstwhile Travancore State, was followed in the areas that are now in Kanniyakumari district, since it was a part of Travancore-Cochin State. In 1956, these areas were seperated from Travancore-Cochin State and were brought under the administrative control of the then Madras State. Even while under the erstwhile Travancore State, there was only one sub-jail at Nagercoil. However, there were lock-ups at Agastiswaram,

Bhoothapandi,Colachel, Eraniel, Kalkulam, Kottar, Kunnathur, Puthenchanthai, Tiruvattar and Vilavancode.

In an administration Report of Travancore, there is a mention about the functioning of eight prisons at various stations like Bhoothapandy, Agasthiswaram, Kottar, Eraniel, Kalkulam, Vilavancode, Colachel and Thiruvattar in the district during 1910.[34] The number of prisoners who were in the lock-ups was 180. The number of prisoners, who were put in these prisons during 1911-12 and 1912-13 were 476 and 402 respectively.

The Sub-Jail, Nagercoil located in the Nagercoil Town was established during 1955 by the Travancore and Cochin Government and now it has accommodation for 84 prisoners.[35] This was a unit of prison administration of Kerala State and subsequently merged with the Tamil Nadu State, consequent on the reorganisation of States, in 1956.

Besides this, two other sub-jails, one at Thuckalay and another at Kuzhithurai have also been established in the district. The Thuckalay sub-jail has the facilities to accommodate 24 prisoners, while the Kuzhithurai sub-jail can accommodate 16 prisoners.

The Sub-jails are meant for the confinement of remand and under trial prisoners. Convict prisoners who are sentenced to imprisonment for one month and less are kept in these jails. Prisoners sentenced to one month and above, are sent to Central Prison, Palayamcoitai for under going punishment awarded by the courts.

From the very beginning, Nagercoil sub-jail, is under the control of the prison department. The administrative control of the sub-jails Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai were transferred from the Revenue Department to Prison Department during March 1983.[36]

The superintendent, Central Prison, Palayamacottai is the Controlling Officer of these sub-jails. Each sub-jail is incharge of one Assistant Jailor or Superintendent, assisted by Warders in the day-to-day administration. In Nagercoil sub-jail, apart from the Assistant Jailor, one Junior Assistant, one Chief Head Warder and six Grade-II Warders are working. Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai sub-jails have one Assistant Jailor, two First Grade Warders and eight Grade-II Warders each.

Remand and under trial prisoners in the sub-jails are not utilised for any work. However, their services are utilised for cooking, and to bring water and clean the Jail premises.

The sick patients are attended to by the visting Medical Officers of the local Government hospitals. Serious cases are transferred to Government Headquarters Hospital for treatment. Duty Counsels of the State Legal Aid Board are attached to all central prisons and sub-jails. The lawyers attached to these Duty Counsels visit the sub-jails regularly and render necessary legal assistance to the needy prisoners. The undertrial prisoners may also avail of this opportunity to get thier trials disposed of quickly and in the meantime to move the courts for bail etc.

Details of total annual expenditure incurred for the maintenance of Sub-Jails in Kanniyakumari district for the past five years (1983-87) are furnished below:—[37]

Sl. No. (1)	*Year* (2)	*Expenditure incurred* (IN RUPEES) (3)
1	1983	3,69,819
2	1984	4,12,337
3	1985	4,74,719
4	1986	4,91,396
5	1987	5,81,755

* Particulars of total lock-ups for the past 5 years from 1.1.1983 to 31.12.87 in the three sub-Jails, Kanniyakumari district, are given below:—[38]

Sl. No.	*Name of the sub -Jail*	*1983*		*1984*		*1985*		*1986*		*1987*	
		C	*R*	*C*	*R*	*C*	*R*	*C*	*R*	*C*	*R*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*	*(10)*	*(11)*	*(12)*
1	Sub-Jail, Nagercoil	470	3069	528	3348	770	3430	419	3919	180	435
2	Sub-Jail, Thckalay	–	510	52	758	61	817	122	1009	131	140
3	Sub-Jail, Kuzhithurai	16	812	27	888	16	902	6	618	11	125
	Total	486	4391	607	4994	847	5149	547	5546	422	700

C - Convicts R - Remand and under trial prisoners

District Legal Aid Committee :[39] The District Legal Aid Committee is functioning at Nagercoil and the District Judge is the Ex-officio President of the Committee. Apart from this, are established two Taluk Committees one at Thuckalay and the other at Kuzhithurai. The Sub-Judges of the respective places are the Presidents of those taluk committees. There are A and B panel of lawyers in the committee to render legal assistance to the pubic, who approach them for legal-aid.

Bar Associations :[40] There are four Bar Associations one each at Nagercoil, Thuckalay, Kuzhithurai and Eraniel in the district. More than 200 members are enrolled at the Nagercoil Bar Association, and about 125 each at Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai. The Bar Association, Eraniel has 30 members. The members of these Bar Association appear in civil and Criminal cases.

Evolution of Law Courts. : In olden days, the judicial system was not regular and the powers were exercised by officials appointed by the Government. The officials of the judiciary were the executive officers. They were called by names Sarvadhikarikar, the Valia Sarvadhikariakar and the Dalawa. [41] To these, may be added the village and taluk Thudasers (Orbitrators) and a Divisional officer designated Melvicharippukar whose duties were purely judicial. They were guided in their judicial deliberations by the Codes of Manu, by Customary laws and usages known as 'Mamools'. [42] There were no written legal codes to guide the judical officers. The common method of trial was trial by oaths and ordeals. Sometimes, trial by ordeal of fire was employed. In this trial, the accused had to dip his hand in the melted butter or melted lead to prove his innocence. Such ordeals especially where the accused was a Nambudhiri, took place at holy places like Suchindrum. But, there was no regularity in inflicting punishments on the accused ; the nature and gravity of offences were seldom taken into consideration. Sometimes, considerations of caste and social status of the accused played an important role in awarding punishment. The task of hearing cases and dispensing justice was given to Naduvalis and Desavalis, who were exclusively appointed Judical officers. Cases concerning capital offences were referred to the king, who was considered to be the fountain head of justice. In passing orders for execution, the king often consulted the Learned Pandits in his Court.

Ummini Thampi, during his Dewanship (1809-1811), tried to reform the judical procedure, by establishing four courts of justice about 1810. They

were known as *Insuaff Cutcheries.* [43] Each of these courts had a Nayar Judge assisted by a small office. These courts suffered from two defects, lack of definite rules on procedure for the trial of cases and the consequent delay in dispensing justice, and extreme corruption.

But, the general administration of Travancore State during the Dewanship of Ummini Thampi was so inefficient and corrupt that chaos and confusion became the order of the day. Reorganisation of the administration, especially the judicial administration became inevitable. In 1811, Queen Lakshmi Bai dismissed Umini Thampi and apointed Col. Munro, the then British Resident in Travancore, as the Dewan.[44] Col. Munro strove hard to eradicate the evils of tyranny, delay and corruption in the administration of justice. He first abolished the Insuaff Cutcheries and took upon himself the responsibility of trying cases. He made provisions in the legal system by which people were able to bring their suits to him. A large number of people surrounded him every day demanding justice and Col. Munro patiently heard a few of them daily with the assistance of the Learned Pandits.[45] Though it proved to be an improvement on the system that existed hither to, yet, it bristled with many difficulties of which the inordinate delay in deciding cases was the most serious one. After a full understanding of the state of justice and the working of the legal machinery in the state, a new legal Code and Procedure for the administration of justice was drafted by Col.Munro in 1811. They were known as "*Sattavariolas*" and were mainly based on Dharma Sastra, customs and usages prevailing in the country and at the same time, it incorporated some of the good features in the English legal system. When the "*Sattavariolas*" were submitted to Rani Lakshmi Bai for sanction, she promulgated an Ordinance for the adoption of the new regulation. The only exception she made was, the retention of the system or trial by ordeal, which Col. Munro wanted to put an end to. But, it was specified that this mode of trial was to be resorted to only in particular cases, that too, on obtaining prior permission from the Dewan.

The year 1811 is an important landmark in the history of Judicial Administration in the Travancore State in general and in the Kanniyakumari District in particular. The Zillah Courts (District Courts) were established for the first time in 1811.[46] There were seven such courts in Travancore and one of the Zillah courts was located at Padmanabhapuram. The Zillah courts were under the orders of the Dewan, who was then the Supreme Head of all departments. The Zillah Court at Padmanabhapuram was under the control and supervision of the

Dewan. It had three judges to try cases, and a Pandit, learned in the Dharma Sastras, to assist the judges in the disposal of cases according to the injunctions of the sastras. The Zillah Court at Padmanabhapuram, like other Zillah Courts, tried all cases-civil criminal or police and reported to the Dewan, whose approval in each case was necessary to give effect to their proceedings. This patriarchal system remained in force till 1814 when an appellate Huzoor Court was formed for the hearing of appeals from the decisions of the Zillah Courts."This court still formed rather an appendage of the Dewan's Cutchery than an independent Court of Justice"

In 1817, the Tahsildars were empowered to try petty police cases and in 1831, the Munsif Courts were established and were vested with Jurisdiction in petty police cases and in civil suits not exceeding Rs.100 value.[47] In 1834, a general scheme of judicial administration was founded on the arrangements obtaining in the Madras Presidency and was carried out by means of seven regulations. The First five regulations dealt with the Civil Procedure and the constitution of the Munisif, Zillah and Appeal Courts. By regulation I, the Munsifs were empowered to try all cases upto Rs.100 but they were prohibited to try suits against the Sirkar and suits against Europeans. Regulation-II provided for the adjudication of suits by Panchayats. Regulation-III formulated procedure for the execution of the decrees of all courts by the Munsifs. By Regulation IV, the Zillah Court was reconstituted and this Court was to consist of a Hindu Judge, a Christian Judge and a Pandit. This Regulation also gave unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction to the Zillah Courts. By this Regulation, the number of Courts was reduced from seven to five. By Regulation V, an appeal Court, known first as the Sadar and subsequently as the High Court, was established comprising three Hindu Judges, one Christian judge, a Sastri and a Mufti. The V Regulation invested the Tahsildar with police authority and the Zillah Court with criminal jurisdiction. The Regulations VII and VIII authorised Judges of the Appeal Court to function as Sessions Courts. RegulationVII created Cirucit Judge, and in additon to defining their powers it laid down the procedure to be observed in the trial and commitment of Criminal cases. These Regulations, though subsequently modified in some respects, form still the ground work of the present judicial machinery. From now, the Munsifs were to be appointed by Royal Commission and were to be above 25 years of age with experience of having worked in the Munsif's Office or Zillah Offices. They were also to take an oath before the Appeal Court, promising to discharge their duty with diligence and integrity. They were forbidden from deciding cases in which their relatives, subordinates or dependents were parties. Their jurisdiction was limited to money suits. The plaints were to be written on stamped cadjan obtained from the Courts at fixed prices. Depositions

were to be taken down and evidence recorded in open court. When there were too many cases on the file of the Munsif's Courts some of them were transferred to the District Judge to be tried in his Court. The Administration of Justice was improved by the passing of new laws and enhancing the authority of the judicial officers under due safeguards.

In 1847, sub-offices of police were appointed to exercise the powers of the police officer or Tahsildar during his absence for the commitment of cases only.[49] In 1849, a regulation was passed reducing the number of Munsifs and relieving them of the duty of executing degrees passed by the Appeal and Zillah Courts.[50] An important administrative change was made in 1854.[51] Revenue divisions were formed and the Dewan Peshkars, who were till then doing duty in the Huzur Cutchery in charge of special departments, were sent out to take charge of them, with powers of general control. They were also empowered to have supervision in all matters of Revenue, Magisterial and Police. They were still subject to the orders of the Dewan as Head of the Administration and Chief Magistrate.

In 1856, Circuit courts were abolished and in their places, Sessions Courts were constituted.[52] In 1860, Sessions Courts were also abolished and the Zillah Courts were invested with full powers of the former Circuit Judges.[53]

In 1861, the British Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure with suitable changes, were introduced in the Kanniyakumari District along with the rest of the Travancore State.[54] The Chief Court of appeal was now called Sadar Court instead of Appeal Court. The Sadar Court was divided into two, the civil and criminal, each presided over by two judges. This division resulted in the prompt disposal of cases. The five Zillah Courts were abolished and in their place four District Courts with both Civil and Criminal powers were established. One District Court was set up in Padmanabhapuram Division.

In 1863, Regulation I was passsed for the punishment of offences against the telegraph. Regulation-II, created copy right in books. By Regulation I of 1864, breaches of Contract by artisans and workmen were made punishable. In the same year, another Regulation was passed defining the status of Vakils, their discipline and rights in relation to the Courts. A Regulation passed in 1867 legalised the employment of vakils in criminal cases.

By Regulation I of 1865, single judges of Zillah Courts were empowered to try and determine both civil and criminal cases. One of the Regulations passed in 1865, legalized admission of approval in criminal cases.[55] Regulation I of 1871 provided for the better conduct of business in the Sadar Court by giving a casting vote to the Chief Judge in certain cases. In the same year, another Regulation was passed to relieve the Dewan of Magisterial functions and Criminal cases, and for redistribution of Magisterial powers generally. Regulation I of 1877 empowered sub-offices of a district to dispose of police cases during the Tahsildar's tours. Regulation II of 1878, remodelled the Constitution and provided for the conduct of the business in the Sadar Court. Regulation II and III of 1880 adopted with necessary modifications the Indian Penal Code, with the Whipping Act and the Indian Criminal Procedure Code, as the law of the land.

In 1881-82, the whole judicial system was reconstituted by means of two enactments.[56] The first Travancore Civil Courts Regulation of 1881 remodelled the structures of the Munsif and District Courts. It conferred on Government, the power to regulate the number and territorial jurisdiction of the Civil Courts. It raised the pecuniary jurisdiction from Rs.200/- to 500/- and also vested them with Small Cause Jurisdiction in suits relating to personal property of the value of not more than Rs.20/-. It also declared the decisions of the District Court as final, in cases of appeal involving money or other personal property not exceeding Rs.50/- in value. The second regulation reconstituted the Sadar Court, making provision for the better administration of justice.[57] The judicial system as modified by the Regulation of 1881-82 continued to exist in the Kanniyakumari district till 1956, when the District was merged with the Madras State and the Judicial system obtaining in the Madras State was extended to the newly formed Kanniyakumari district.

Panchayat Courts : In 1915, Panchayat Courts were newly constituted throughout the Travancore State by the enactment of the Travancore Village Panchayat Court Act. Section 7 of the Act provided for the appointment of a President and Judges for each Court for trying the cases filed before these courts. All civil suits on money or movable properties not exceeding Rs.50/- in value, were made cognisable by them. In certain cases, the monetary limit was raised to Rs.100/- and with the consent of both the contending parties, the courts could exercise jurisdiction upto Rs. 200/- The Panchayat Courts were mainly constituted to reduce the volume of petty suits in the Civil Courts of the State.

The Presidents and Judges of the Village Panchayat Courts were invested with powers of the Honorary Magistrates under sub-section (i) of section 15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 and the same was withdrawn, after the re-organisation of States.[58] There were five Village Panchayat Courts in the Kanniyakumari District at the time of its merger with the Madras State in 1956. They were located at Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram, Kuzhithurai, Colachel and Eraniel. There were ten judges and one President in the Panchayat Court at Nagercoil, Five Judges and one President in Panchayat Court at Padmanabhapuram, three Judges and one President in the Court at Kuzhithurai, and four Judges and one President each in Court at Colachel and Eraniel. The Judges and Presidents were appointed by the Government once in two years on the recommendation of the District Collector.

In 1956, at the time of the formation of the Kanniyakumari district , there were a District Court and two Additional District Courts at Nagercoil, exercising original and appellate jurisdiction. There was a Subordinate Judge Court at Padmanabhapuram, with original jurisdiction. There were also two Munsifs' Courts each at Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithruai under the control of the District Court. These courts administered civil justice over well defined territorial limits. Thovala Taluk had no separate Munsif's Court. In 1959, due to pendency of suits, three temporary District Munsif's Courts, one each at Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai, were established; but they were abolished in the year 1960. The following Criminal Courts also existed in the District at the time of its merger with the Madras State in 1956:—

(1) District Magistrate's Court (Judicial), Trivandrum.

(2) Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court, Padmanabhapuram.

(3) First Class Magistrate's Court, Nagercoil.

(4) First Class Magistrate's Court, Kuzhithurai.

(5) Sub-Magistrate's Court, Nagercoil.

(6) Sub-Magistrate's Court, Eraniel.

(7) Sub-Magistrate's Court, Bhoothapandi.

In 1957, two Additional District Courts at Nagercoil were replaced by two Subordinate Judges Courts at Nagercoil. One of these courts was abolished in April 1961. The Subordinate Judges Court at Padmanabhapuram which exercised both original and appellate

jurisdiction in respect of only appeal cases transferred to that Court, was conferred in 1958 with powers to receive appeals, direct.

The territory constituted as the Kanniyakumari district under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, though formed part of the Trivandrum district in Travancore and later in Travancore Cochin for Revenue purposes, was treated as a distinct Judicial District, having territorial jurisdiction over the four Tamil Taluks of Agasthiswaram, Thovala, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. The High Court which was the highest tribunal in the former Travancore State was situated in Trivandrum, the Capital City of the State. After the formation of Travancore- Cochin State, the High Court was shifted to Ernakulam and Trivandrum had a Bench of the High Court functioning there, which too, was discontinued after sometime. The Criminal Tribunals in this district consist in an ascending scale of the Courts of the Subordinate Magistrates, District Magistrate and the Sessions Court.

At the time of the Reorganisation of the State and the formation of the Kanniyakumari district, there were a District and Sessions Court and two Additional District and Sessions Courts at Nagercoil. The sessions cases committed to the sessions by the Subordinate Magistrates in the four Taluks were being tried mainly by the District and Sessions Judges and such of the cases that were transferred by him to the Additional District and Sessions Judges were tried by them. There were a District Magistrate's Court at Trivandrum a Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court at Padmanabhapuram, two Stationary First Class Magistrate's Courts at Kottar and Kuzhithurai and three Stationary Second Class Magistrate's Court at Kottar, Bhoothapandy and Eraniel. Bench Magistrates' Courts have been constituted which exercise either first class or second class powers according to the status of the Presiding Magistrate of the day at Nagercoil, Eraniel, Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai.

At present, a District and Sessions Court is functioning at Nagercoil. Besides this, three sub-courts are functioning one each at Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai. Further, the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court and Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court at Nagercoil, in the cadre of Sub-judge are also functioning. Subordinate judges are also Assistant Sessions Judges and they try cases committed to the Sessions by the Subordinate Magistrates in the district and transferred to them by the District and Sessions Judge. After the establishment of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court at Nagercoil, the erstwhile First Class Magistrate's Court at Nagercoil was abolished. The Chief Judicial Magistrate who was till 1974 called District Magistrate is

also Assistant Sessions Judge empowered to hear appeals against convictions by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Court at Padmanabhapuram has been substituted by a First Class Magistrate.[59]

There are six permanent District Munsif Courts functioning as detailed below:-[60]

(1) Principal District Munsif's Court, Nagercoil.

(2) Additional District Munsif's Court, Nagercoil.

(3) Principal District Munsif's Court, Padmanabhapuram.

(4) Additional District Munsif's Court, Padmanabhapuram.

(5) Principal District Munsif's Court, Kuzhithurai.

(6) Additional District Muisif's Court, Kuzhithurai.

Appeals lie to the Sessions Court at Nagercoil against convictions by the First Class Magistrates' Court in the district.

The offences tried by the various courts in the distrct are mainly offences under the Indian Penal Code and under the Madras Prohibition Act.

In tables 5 to 14 facts relating to Civil as well as Criminal are given with details such as number of cases filed and disposed of in the Magistrate and Sessions Courts, Criminal appeals instituted, disposed of and pending and fine imposed, and number of such appeals filed, disposed of and pending in various Courts in the district.[61]

Civil Courts Statistics

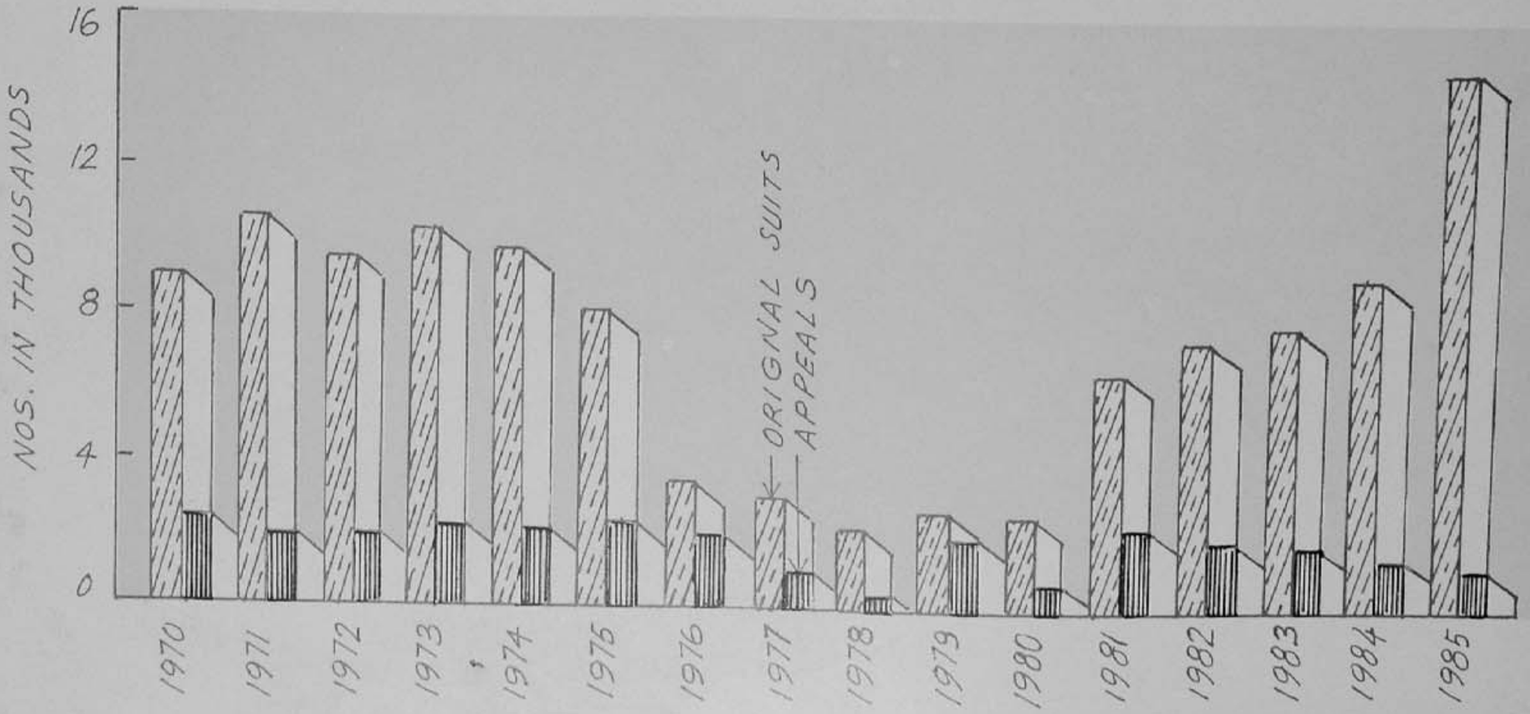
TABLE – 5

Statement showing the number of suits (original and small cause) and appeals filed in the District .

Year *(1)*	*Original Suits* *(2)*	*Appeals* *(3)*
1957	3148	909
1958	2716	967
1959	2626	803
1960	2639	2062
1961	5259	6428
1962	5338	6349
1963	4998	6051
1964	5318	6369
1965	5155	1041
1966	5329	6628
1967	6124	1277
1968	6291	1315
1969	9050	301
1970	8944	2333
1971	10610	1963
1972	9611	1962
1973	10257	2177
1974	9817	2064
1975	8114	2335
1976	3504	1930
1977	3175	896
1978	2283	538
1979	2855	1967
1980	2676	839

NUMBER OF ORIGINAL SUITS AND APPEALS

(1970 TO 1985)



(1)	(2)	(3)
1981	6613	2423
1982	7375	2012
1983	7839	1897
1984	9273	1556
1985	14731	1250
1986	2853	150
1987	3347	203

TABLE – 6

Statement showing the number of Suits Instituted Disposed of and Pending in the District Munsifs Court, Kanniyakumari District.

Year	*Ordinary Suits*			*Small Cause Suits*		
	Insti-tution	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Insti-tution*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
1957	2104	3153	2724	619	753	121
1958	1485	2998	1694	788	786	141
1959	1539	2661	1039	847	812	189
1960	1644	2084	1225	765	852	119
1961	1650	2158	1349	661	708	83
1962	1681	2222	1548	680	654	109
1963	1736	2331	1938	689	720	92
1964	1831	2428	1610	759	708	150
1965	1763	2369	1625	725	781	113
1966	1885	2214	1971	761	710	181
1967	2162	2582	2179	853	944	133
1968	2287	2318	2730	749	728	163
1969	3187	2572	3936	777	788	157

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1970	2574	2813	4320	903	832	237
1971	2992	3826	4207	1016	1043	231
1972	2699	3784	3911	1025	1007	265
1973	2657	3821	3643	1036	1027	284
1974	2792	3236	4028	1012	991	330
1975	1769	2740	3606	307	379	275
1976	1548	2848	2826	533	455	386
1977	2013	3161	2400	524	649	243
1978	2259	3593	1881	330	503	80
1979	2567	2859	2389	307	289	110
1980	2077	2633	2560	232	312	39
1981	2312	2199	3440	182	141	83
1982	2467	2695	3843	369	231	228
1983	2455	2322	4538	237	259	209
1984	3137	2026	6016	313	247	276
1985	3193	2993	6650	327	387	224
1986	2603	2429	7251	342	281	291
1987	2995	2052	8695	176	208	259

TABLE – 7

Statement showing the number of Suits Instituted, Disposed of and Pending in the Courts of Subordinate Judges in Kanniyakumari District.

Year	*Ordinary Suits*			*Small Cause Suits*		
	Institution	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Institution*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
1957	82	223	199	28	8	20
1958	58	160	48	173	166	27

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1959	59	82	44	167	164	30
1960	67	93	61	162	162	34
1961	75	113	77	75	103	77
1962	61	112	69	–	–	–
1963	83	115	73	–	–	–
1964	84	114	75	–	–	–
1965	77	104	79	–	–	–
1966	101	79	125	–	–	–
1967	84	94	142	–	–	–
1968	128	100	191	–	–	–
1969	145	106	252	–	–	–
1970	176	167	294	–	–	–
1971	215	268	298	–	–	–
1972	225	256	342	–	–	–
1973	241	183	368	–	–	–
1974	226	361	321	–	–	–
1975	168	288	274	–	–	–
1976	207	225	311	–	–	–
1977	276	345	323	–	–	–
1978	340	431	316	–	–	–
1979	409	480	353	–	–	–
1980	362	419	410	–	–	–
1981	189	219	158	–	–	–
1982	139	103	–	–	–	–
1983	228	252	206	–	–	–
1984	274	334	236	–	–	–
1985	212	254	280	–	–	–
1986	248	216	435	–	–	–
1987	339	194	630	–	–	–

TABLE – 8

Statement showing the number of Regular Appeals Instituted, Disposed of and Pending in the courts of Kanniyakumari District.

Year (1)	*Institution (2)*	*Disposal (3)*	*Pending (4)*
1957	700	1031	1157
1958	891	1374	751
1959	709	1052	557
1960	793	949	333
1961	589	597	225
1962	442	500	188
1963	522	490	265
1964	420	530	176
1965	512	317	393
1966	500	345	559
1967	438	325	677
1968	457	392	764
1969	470	362	888
1970	538	366	1075
1971	612	615	1108
1972	617	465	1308
1973	584	532	1397
1974	556	519	1479
1975	535	454	1594
1976	914	653	1894
1977	728	789	1861
1978	846	782	1962
1979	583	830	1752
1980	565	835	1532
1981	426	760	1260

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1982	520	701	1075
1983	559	667	1063
1984	299	566	841
1985	223	361	762
1986	150	203	757
1987	203	201	778

TABLE – 9

Statement showing the number of Miscellaneous appeals instituted disposed of and pending in the Courts of Kanniyakumari District.

Year *(1)*	*Instituted* *(2)*	*Disposal* *(3)*	*Pending* *(4)*
1957	116	212	17
1958	86	94	11
1959	92	83	22
1960	59	69	16
1961	171	157	30
1962	161	171	23
1963	189	187	24
1964	149	173	13
1965	158	89	85
1966	141	67	47
1967	141	251	149
1968	124	151	23
1969	136	112	43
1970	140	110	76
1971	210	235	93
1972	229	189	142

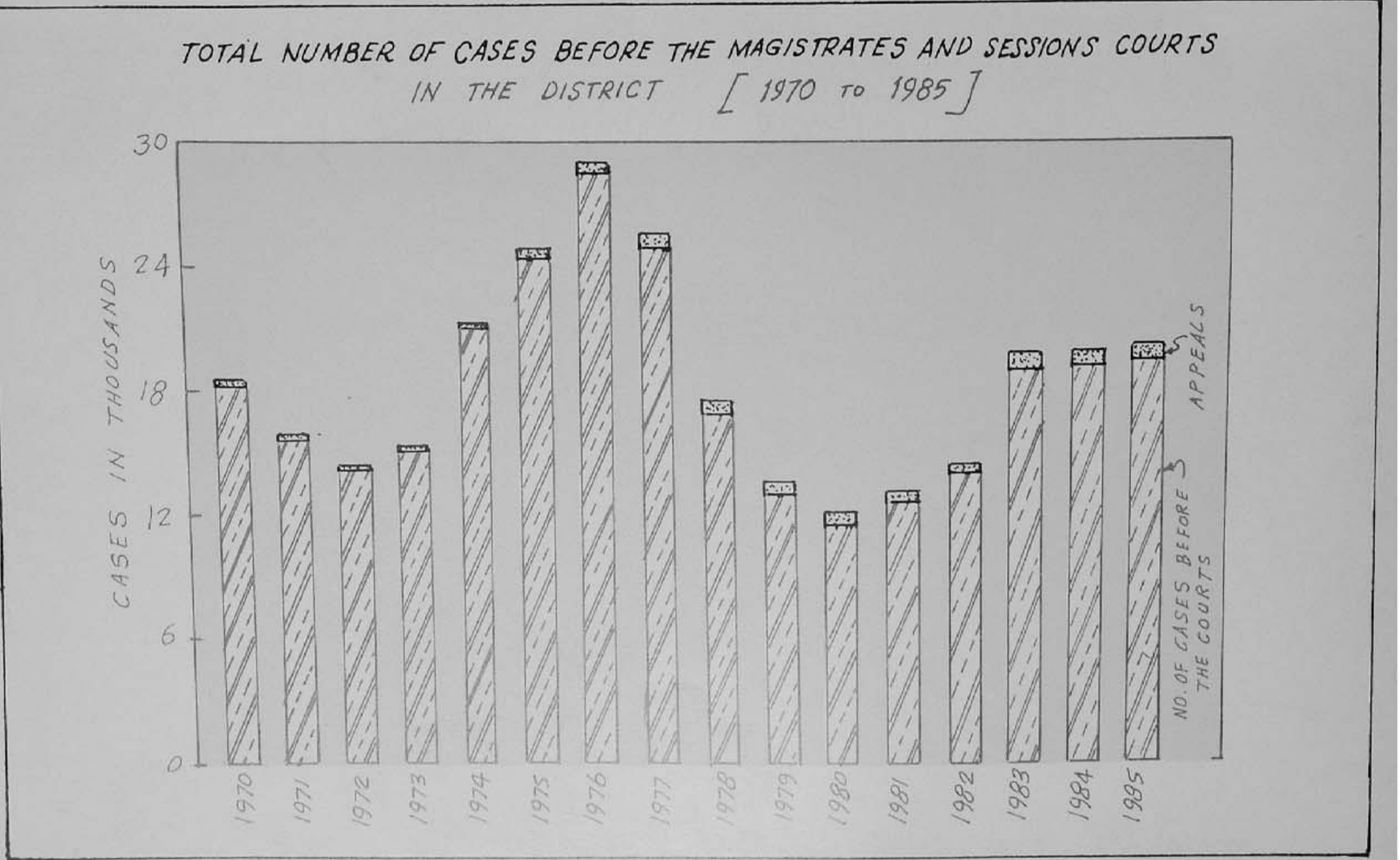
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1973	156	216	94
1974	213	159	148
1975	223	192	183
1976	170	184	141
1977	181	150	179
1978	133	204	89
1979	115	140	61
1980	144	112	99
1981	177	89	192
1982	54	161	177
1983	125	127	176
1984	81	98	159
1985	59	66	160
1986	46	21	156
1987	36	86	105

TABLE - 10

Criminal Court Statistics

Statement showing the relative contributions of cases from the Magistrate and Sessions Court to the aggregate number of cases in Kanniyakumari District.

Year (1)	*No. of cases before the courts* (2)	*appeals* (3)	*Total cases and appeals* (4)
1964	15463	336	15799
1965	15589	281	15870
1966	14803	365	15168
1967	13167	230	13397



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES AND SESSIONS COURTS
IN THE DISTRICT [1970 TO 1985]
CASES IN THOUSANDS
30
24
18
12
6
0
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
APPEALS
NO. OF CASES BEFORE THE COURTS

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1968	14243	208	14451
1969	16904	169	17073
1970	18321	223	18544
1971	15681	235	15916
1972	14187	213	14400
1973	15128	283	15411
1974	20924	315	21239
1975	24521	452	24973
1976	28505	445	28960
1977	25048	494	25542
1978	17059	504	17563
1979	13289	606	13895
1980	11756	382	12391
1981	12992	448	13374
1982	14253	442	14701
1983	19239	674	19681
1984	18810	777	19484
1985	19456	—	20233
1986	23887	108	23995
1987	23547	94	23641

TABLE - 11

Statement showing the amounts of fine imposed realised and paid as compensation in Judicial Magistrates and Court of Sessions Kanniyakumari District.

Year (1)	Amount of fine imposed (2)	Amount of fine realised (3)	Amount paid as Compensation (4)
1957		Not available	
1958	89084	66634	860
1959	77782	76969	1400

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1960	115380	107618	791
1961		Not available	
1962		-do-	
1963		-do-	
1964	209028	204215	2225
1965	175779	171108	675
1966	181221	179152	—
1967	187549	185605	50
1968	242848	231554	—
1969	267922	268314	100
1970	304576	304523	150
1971	260347	260092	—
1972	203397	199116	—
1973	260269	243370	1050
1974	375133	342484	296
1975	493866	486275	100
1976	584263	591818	—
1977	564141	559182	100
1978	448519	405044	400
1979	561580	375100	25
1980	361023	255533	100
1981	428602	267654	—
1982	467059	324370	400
1983	719320	368090	2350
1984	743870	387832	4350
1985	723730	579715	3550
1986	138675	80450	3000
1987	98725	72075	2000

TABLE – 12

Number of Criminal Appeals instituted, disposed of and pending in the Sessions Court - Kanniyakumari District.

Year (1)	Instituted (2)	No. of Appeals Disposed (3)	Pending (4)
1958	104	105	9
1959	151	157	3
1960	299	216	16
1961	Not available		
1962	-Do-		
1963	-Do-		
1964	118	119	6
1965	117	76	47
1966	94	137	4
1967	61	59	6
1968	62	68	—
1969	74	73	1
1970	89	82	7
1971	61	55	13
1972	69	52	30
1973	100	95	35
1974	235	101	95
1975	225	164	73
1976	256	184	55
1977	297	147	90
1978	258	156	73
1979	320	108	101
1980	321	118	126
1981	171	132	147

(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
1982	227	137	207
1983	157	151	158
1984	343	130	376
1985	248	162	438
1986	265	167	424
1987	194	157	374

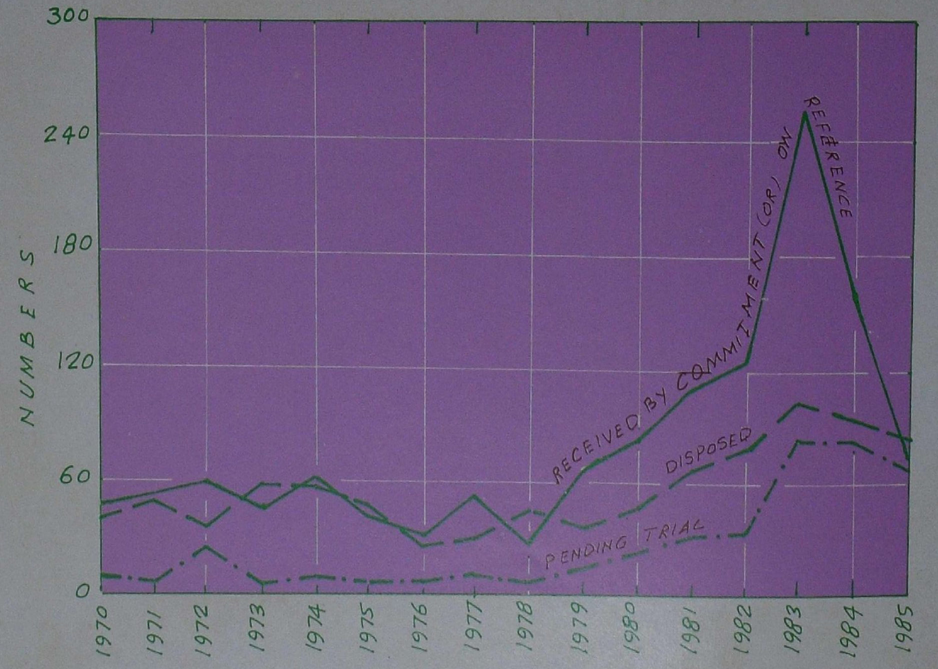
TABLE -- 13

Statement showing the number of cases received, disposed of and pending in the Sessions Court - Kanniyakumari District.

Year *(1)*	*Received by Commitment (or) on reference* *(2)*	*Disposed of* *(3)*	*Pending Trial* *(4)*
1958	24	21	5
1959	33	35	3
1960	31	32	3
1961	Not available		
1962	-Do-		
1963	-Do-		
1964	23	18	—
1965	39	21	7
1966	30	25	1
1967	40	33	1
1968	34	33	2
1969	41	40	1
1970	46	38	8
1971	53	47	6
1972	58	34	24

NUMBER OF CASES RECEIVED, DISPOSED OF AND PENDING DISPOSAL IN THE SESSIONS COURT

[1970 TO 1985]



(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1973	44	57	6
1974	60	57	10
1975	42	45	5
1976	30	25	5
1977	52	29	9
1978	28	44	6
1979	67	36	14
1980	82	45	23
1981	109	67	31
1982	126	77	33
1983	256	104	82
1984	158	94	83
1985	74	83	70
1986	89	46	23
1987	134	55	34

TABLE – 14

Statement showing the number of Criminal appeals instituted and disposed of and pending, in the court of District Judicial Magistrate, Kanniyakumari District.

Year	Instituted	Disposed of	Pending
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1964	155	135	13
1965	139	108	9
1966	104	97	—
1967	88	107	5
1968	112	98	6
1969	99	57	13

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1970	64	87	17
1971	91	133	1
1972	117	108	11
1973	118	130	6
1974	125	96	7
1975	95	89	14
1976	97	101	6
1977	94	113	5
1978	113	125	—
1979	120	156	26
1980	182	159	28
1981	164	39	6
1982	45	35	3
1983	38	35	5
1984	37	42	3
1985	47	43	6
1986	108	14	94
1987	94	5	89

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(b) Statistics of Civil Courts Administration Report from 1957 -1985, Madras, Government Press.

* * * *

CHAPTER - 13

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Ever since Independence, India has stepped in her palmy days and begun her triumphant march towards the long road of development, not only for the upliftment of the social and economical status of her people, but also has put forth her head and shoulders in quest of ways and means to keep the administrative machinery in leading strings so to say, the pink of perfection.

In the initial days, when the Government were formed by the British, only the Revenue Department headed by the Collectors, played the vital role of multifarious, activities of general administration, maintenance of Law and order and justice, urban and rural development and other developmental activities, maintenance of Irrigation sources, roads, construction works, drinking water supply, vital statistics, malaria and cholera eradication schemes, upliftment of poor and downtrodden, particularly scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, collection of commercial taxes, land revenue and allied taxes, administration of district and sub-treasuries, etc. at the district level.

But when the country put forth blossoms of Democratic Republic, since 26th January 1950, the Government besides state level, at the district level too started speeding up the enormous developmental activities by leaps and bounds. They desired to implement the Gandhian policy of establishing Panchayat Raj in word and deed all over the country. The main aim is that the common man should be afforded services at his doors, which were conspicuous by their absence in the original administrative set up. Accordingly, the Government planned to revitalise the administrative set up and implement the various Community Development Schemes, at block level by grouping official representatives of all departments in-charge of in the various spheres of welfare measures viz, Panchayat, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Medical, Engineering, etc. under one roof. Normally, each taluk would comprise two to three blocks to attend to all these developmental activities. The Government, in order to implement the successive Five Year Plans, more effectively, allotted funds for each scheme, to the States and were of the object that each pie spent, should be in the interest of common man, particularly in rural areas. But, they felt the inadequacy of the administrative machinery

under a single department. After careful consideration, they considered the need of formation of Block level set up as stated above and also separate departments for each scheme of developmental activities in order to achieve the object of prosperity in fields through the block level officers according to the increasing needs of the people.

In order to implement the schemes, borne out of the policies, as visualised, the administrative set up, which could fully cope up with the expectations was thought of. The result is the emergence of various Heads of Departments, viz, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Agricultural Engineering, Cooperation, Municipal Administration, Panchayat Development, Animal Husbandry, Adi Dravidar and Tribal welfare, Backward Classes welfare, Employment and Training, Industries, besides various Undertakings, Corporations, Federations and Boards, vested with autonomous powers, under the control of Chairmen and Directors. Brief accounts of the pattern of the various departments (i.e. organisation set up) brought out in consonance with the changing needs of the society are as follows.

The various schemes implemented, target and achievements and welfare measures undertaken by major departments, such as Revenue, Panchayat Development, Municipal Administration, Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering Highways and Rural Works, Cooperation, Industries, Transport, Education, Medical, etc. are detailed in depth in other chapters, covering the respective departments.

Department of Agriculture : The department of Agriculture implements the Intensive Foodgrain Production Programmes like High Yielding Varieties Programme, Intensive Agricultural Area Programme, Pulses Development Programme and Intensive Cultivation Programme for cotton and sugarcane, supporting these field programmes with supply of quality inputs in sufficient quantities at right time, according to the needs of the agriculturists.[1]

Besides, efforts are being taken by the department to bring the benefits of modern technology to the small farmers and landless labourers and raise their standard of living by introducing improved agriculture, subsidiary occupations and supplementary employment opportunities. For this purpose, various welfare schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme etc. are being implemented through the department. The schemes implemented by the department, target and achievements, etc. are

discussed in depth in the chapter under the title 'Agriculture and Irrigation'.

The following is the organisation set up of this department. The Director of Agriculture is assisted by the following officers. (i) Additional Directors of Agriculture - 4, one each for (1) Plant protection (2) Extension Schemes (3) Seeds and (4) Monitoring and Evaluation. (ii) Joint Directors of Agriculture 8, (iii) Financial Advisor and the Chief Accounts Officer 1, (iv) Deputy Directors 5, (v) Executive Engineers 2, (1) Water Management, (2) Seed Processing Unit, (vi) Agricultural Economist 1, (vii) Rural Sociologist 1, (vii) Administrative Officers 2 and (viii) Assistant Directors of Agriculture 12.

The organisation set up of this department in Kanniyakumari district, and the functions of each officer of the department is dealt with in the following paragraphs.

To implement the agricultural schemes in the district properly, the district is under the administrative control of a Joint Director of Agriculture.

Training and Visit Programme : The Training and Visit Programme was introduced in Kanniyakumari district with effect from 1 July 1982. The main object of this scheme is to accelerate the phase of extension and ensure the effective transfer of technology to the farmers. For the effective implementation of the Training and Visit Programme, the extension set up at field level has been reorganised. The Joint Director of Agriculture is made responsible for implementing the programme in the district. He is assisted by five Deputy Directors of Agriculture, six Assistant Directors of Agriculture, 53 Agricultural Officers, 158 Assistant Agricultural Officers, 9 Agricultural Seed Officers,and 65 Field Demonstration Officers.

Out of the five Deputy Directors, four Deputy Directors of Agriculture are the officers who have specialised the subjects. The other takes care of Seed Production and Distribution.

At Sub-divisional level, the Assistant Directors of Agriculture are responsible for the implementation of the Training and Visit Programme. The Agricultural Officer is in charge of a group of villages. He guides and supervises the base level workers under Training and Visit System. (i.e.) Village Extension Workers. For every 800 to 1000 farm families, one such

Village Extension Worker is employed. They are given training every fortnight. The training is confined to the recommendation to be passed on during the subsequent fortnight for the crops that are expected to be taken up for cultivation on the recommendations relevant to the stages of crop growth during the period. The Village Extension Worker draws a schedule and meets the farmers once a fortnight to disseminate the knowledge on relevant crop production techniques. This programme works well in the district.

Duties attached to the officers at different levels : The Joint Director of Agriculture draws the production programme for the district and sees that it is duly implemented at Village level. He undertakes periodical reviews and coordinates all aspects including inputs supply to achieve this programme through Training and Visit System. He undertakes discussion in regard to the technical matters relevant to the district crop and season with the research personnel at the monthly workshop and finalises the recommendations to be passed on to the farmers in the succeeding month. He convenes the District Technical Committee, reviews and formulates the recommendations, demonstrations and trials. He also plans and organises the training programmes, and watches the proper implementation of the programmes. Further, he guides and reviews the work of the Subject Matter Specialists. He is having liaison with the land based departments in the field of Horticulture, Oil Seeds, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Engineering, Seed Certification, etc.

Functions of the Deputy Directors –

Deputy Director (Training and Visit.) : He coordinates all activities under Training and Visit at district level and assists the Joint Director of Agriculture in the successful implementation of Training and Visit Programme. He is in charge of supervision of the field staff, and maintains the Agricultural Extension Project functionaries, by giving guidance then and there.

Deputy Director, Agronomy : He is in-charge of preparation of detailed crop production techniques after evaluating the current agronomic practices of the area. He plans and guides in adopting research trials besides organising demonstrations, minikits and crop estimation survey.

Deputy Director - Plant Protection : He takes up the survey of the pests and diseases of crops in the area, organises plant protection measures, particularly large scale plant protection measures in endemic areas. He forecasts the incidence of pests and diseases through pest surveillance methods and makes arrangements for the supply of pesticides and equipments.

Deputy Director (Information and Training) : He coaches communication techniques to the extension staff. He shoulders the responsibility of making all efforts for all seminars, workshops, and exhibitions conducted by the department in the district. He maintains liaison with Press, All India Radio and other mass media. Besides, he guides the field staff, in regard to extension techniques and preparation and use of extension aids.

Deputy Director (Seeds) : He is responsible for multiplication and distribution of the quality seeds. He supervises the work of the Assistant Director (Seeds) and also the Agricultural Officers (Depot). He makes necessary arrangements for the timely supply of seeds and pesticides through the 19 Agricultural Depots in the district.

Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training and Visit) : He is in over all charge of the implementation of all the Extension programmes in his jurisdiction and exercises full techincal, finanical and administrative control of the staff of his area.

Subject Matter Specialists (taluk level) : These specialists impart training to the Agricultural Officers and Assistant Agricultural Officers in their respective disciplines, (Agronomy, Plant Protection and Information). Besides, they supervise field trials, and demonstrations, conduct pest surveiliance, and are in-charge of editing and printing extension materials, projection of films, etc. They also assist the Assitant Director (Training and Visit) towards proper implemetation of the Training and Visit Scheme, in their respective sphere.

Agricultural Officers : The Agricultural Officers at Panchayat Union level, supervise and guide the Assistant Agricultural Officers in building up their professional competence in performing their duties. The Agricultural Officers are responsible for conducting field trials and

organising field days. They also conduct crop cutting experiments and demonstrations, and assess the yield.

Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department :[2] The department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare was started in the year 1949 on the recommendation of the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the then Minister for Adi, Dravidar Welfare in 1949. Prior to this, the Adi-Dravidar welfare activities were looked after by the Commissioner of Labour. The organisation set up of this department at various level is as follows.

Director of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare is the head of the department. He is assisted by the following officers.

(i) Joint Director (General) 1 (ii) Joint Director (Tribal Welfare) 1 (iii) Financial Adviser-*cum*-Accounts Officer 1 (iv) Deputy Director (Education) 1 (v) Economist 1 (vi) Sociologist 1 (vii) Assistant Director (Education) 1 (Viii) Personal Assistant to the Director 1 (ix) Accounts Officer 1 (X) Research Officer 1 (xi) Superintendents 16 (xii) Research Assistant 2 (xiii) Technical Assistant 1 (xiv) Publicity Officer 1 (xv) Junior Research Assistants 2 (xvi) Investigators 2 (xvii) Assistants 44 (xviii) Propaganda Assistant 1 (xix) Investigators (Assistant Cadre) 2 (xx) Cinema Project Operator 1 (xxi) Upper Division Steno 1 (xxii) Junior Assistants 23 (xxiii) Lower Division Stenos 2 (xxiv) Typists 13 and (xxv) Record Clerks 6.

In Kanniykumari district, the District Adi-Dravidars Welfare Officer is working under the direct administrative control of the Collector, who is looking after the welfare measures undertaken in the distrct for the Adi-Dravidars and tribes. The District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer has complementary staff consisting of an Assistant Accounts Officer, special Tahsildar (Adi dravidar Welfare), a Superintendent, one Head Accountant, Overseer and other ministerial staff, to implement the orders of the Collector. Among other things, grant of scholarships to the Adi-Dravidar students is also one of the items attached to the Director of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal welfare. The District Adi Dravidar Welfare Officer is looking after the implementation of various schemes connected with the welfare of Adi-Dravidars, and Tribes and maintenance and management of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Hostels, Schools, Government Tribal Residential Schools, acquisition of lands for providing house sites, roads to burial grounds, provision of culverts etc. with the help of the above

staff. For details regarding this department the chapter under the caption "Other Social Services" may be referred to.

Department of Agricultural Marketing : The Agricultural Marketing Department was created and started functioning with effect from 14 October 1979, with Headquarters at Madras. Later on, the Directorate was shifted to Tiruchirappalli and it is functioning there from 1 December 1979.

The objectives of this department are to establish regulated markets for buying and selling agricultural products, with a view to help the farmers to get fair price, grading and quality control works of agriculture and animal husbandry products under 'Agmark' schemes for the benefit of consumers, to maintain purity of cotton and prevention of admixture of different varieties of kapas and lint in ginning and pressing factories under cotton certification and enforcement scheme, commercial grading of agricultural produce and kapas grading in regulated markets, to help the agriculturists to get remunerative prices for their produce, and to educate them on the importance of grading in marketing, to train the personnel like Assistant Agricultural Officers and Supervisors of regulated markets on the methods and techniques under 'Agmark' and commercial grading activities in order to improve their efficiency in marketing of agricultural produce, and to conduct surveys on marketing to know the trends of marketing.

The Director of Agricultural Marketing is the head of the department.[3] He is assisted by a Deputy Director of Agriculture (Marketing), three Assistant Directors, three Agricultural Officers, an Administrative Officer and other supporting staff. There are 14 market committees, functioning with Special Officers, Secretaries, Regulated Market Superintendents, Supervisors and other supporting staff. Apart from this, 35 'Agmark' labs, each under the control of an Agricultural Officer, 15 Agricultural Officers (Marketing Centres) 11 Kapas Grading Centres, each in-charge of an Agricultural Officer, 102 commodity grading Centres, each under the supervision of Agricultural Officer and Assistant Agricultural Officers, and other supporting staff are functioning in the State.

In Kanniyakumari district, there are two State Agmark Grading Laboratories functioning one each at Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai. The Nagercoil Laboratory commenced its function on 1 November 1974 with an Agricultural Officer (Chemistry), a Junior Assistant(Security) and a Laboratory Assistant.

The Marthandam Laboratory is functioning at Kuzhithurai from 1 April 1982, with an Agricultural Officer (Chemistry), Junior Assistant-*cum*-Typist, Laboratory Assistant and a Laboratory Boy.

Under the Kanniyakumari Market committee, the regulated markets are functioning in the following places of the district.– viz. Vadasery, Kulasekaram, Monday Market, Thoduvetti, Kaliyakkavilai and Ethamozhi.

Department of Animal Husbandry :

The activities of Animal Husbandry Department are three fold. They are (1) augmenting the production capacity of livestock and their products (2) providing necessary and timely health coverage for livestock and (3) providing additional rural employment potential through livestock subsidiary occupation for increasing the economic status of the weaker sections of the society and also the under-previleged who are below the poverty line.

The Director of Animal Husbandry is in-charge of this department.[4] Under his control, a Director in the rank of Additional Director of Animal Husbandry for the Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (IVPM) Ranipet, four Additional Directors, one for Veterinary Services, another for Schemes and Farms, third one for Livestock Development, and the last one for Cattle Breeding Farm at Eachenkottai, and 19 Joint Directors (of whom 15 for regions, 1 for Government Dairy farm, Madhavaram, another for Extension Services, one for Special Schemes, and the last one for statistics) are working. The Director is also assisted by Chief Personnel Officer, Personal Assistant, Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Administrative Officers, Deputy Directors, Specialists, Clinicians, Assistant Directors, Assistant Project Officers, Senior Research Officer, Research Officers, Assistant Research Officers, Research Assistants, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, Veterinary and Livestock Inspectors grade I and II, to implement the various programmes of the department.

Kanniyakumari district forms part of Tirunelveli Region and a Joint Director of Animal Husbandry heads this region. There is one Deputy Director for key villages scheme and two Assistant Directors of Animal Husbandry, one at Nagercoil and another at Thuckalay, who are all working under the control of the Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tirunelveli. These Assistant Directors look after all the Animal Husbandry activities in their respective jurisdiction. This department has

two veterinary hospitals, one each at Nagercoil and Thuckalay and a mobile unit at Nagercoil, besides 14 Veterinary Dispensaries in the district to cater to the needs of the livestock health care are also functioning. Also there are Poultry Extension Centre at Kottaram, a Disease Free Zone at Nagercoil, to eradicate rinderpest among the livestock, a Rinderpest District Squad to undertake rinderpest preventive vaccination of susceptible livestock, and a rinderpest checkpost at Kavalkinaru. For more details, the chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation" of this Gazetteer may be referred.

Backward Classes Welfare Department :

This Department is in charge of the implementation of welfare schemes for the uplift of members of the backward classes and denotified communities of the State.[5] The Director of the Backward Classes is the Head of the Department in the State. Under this control, an Accounts Officer, a Special Officer, a Personal Assistant, an Administrative Officer, 20 District Backward Classes Welfare Officers, a Special Deputy Collector, (Kallar Reclamation-Madurai) and other complementary staff are functioning. In Kanniyakumari District, the Collector, is in charge of implementing the various schemes for the welfare of the Backward classes. He is assisted by the District Backward Classes Welfare Officer, who is in the grade of Deputy Collector. He is attached with necessary complementary staff for the speedy implementation of various schemes and programmes. This department maintains schools and hostels in the district. It awards scholarships and boarding grants to the eligible Backward Class students every year. Tools are supplied to the deserving members of Backward Classes. Maintenance of cottage industries for the benefit of denotified communities and Backward Classes, subsidies-*cum*-loans for the construction of dhobikanas and subsidy for construction of houses are also granted by this department to the eligible members of Backward Class. The Director of Backward Classes is looking after the speedy implementation of various schemes referred to at taluk level.

Cooperation Department :

The Cooperative Movement has to make an impressive progress in various fields of development in Tamil Nadu viz., credit, marketing and processing of agricultural produce, supply of fertilizers and distribution of essential commodities at subsidised price to both urban and rural population, through fair price shops.[6]

The following is the organisation set up of the department :-

Registrar (State Level Officer)

Headquarters (Madras)	***Regional Offices***
(1) Additional Registrar (Consumer Activities)	Regional Joint Registrars (20) (One each for each Revenue District)
(2) Additional Registrar (Credit)	Joint Registrar (Public Distribution System)
(3) Additional Registrar (Marketing, Planning and Development)	Deputy Registrars 81 (55 for circles and 26 for Public Distribution System)
(4) Joint Registrars	
(5) Deputy Registrars and Other Supporting staff.	

Kanniyakumari Region was formed with effect from 4 November 1981 with headquarters at Nagercoil. The departmental officials who are working in Kanniyakumari region are as follows :-

1. Joint Registrar (Nagercoil) 2. Deputy Registrar (Nagercoil) 3. Deputy Registrar (Thuckalai) 4. Deputy Registrar or Project Officer (NABARD) (Nagercoil, Collectorate) (NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) 5. Deputy Registrar, Public Distribution System 6. Assistant Director of Cooperation (Audit)-Nagercoil 7. Special Officer (Central Cooperative Bank) - Nagercoil 8. Special Officer (Cooperative Wholesale Stores) - Nagercoil 9. Assistant Project Officer (Cooperation) attached to District Rural Development Agency - (DRDA) - Nagercoil 10. Deputy Registrar (Special Officer) Karungal Farmers Service Cooperative Society 11. Special Officer (FSIS) - Eraniel 12. Deputy Registrar (Dairy) - Nagercoil and 13. Deputy Registrar (PDS)

During 1985-86, there were 118 cooperative credit societies and 14 cooperative societies functioning in the district in which about 2,28,835 members were enrolled. Regarding implementation of various schemes introduced by the Government from time to time and also the activities of

the above officials in various spheres are discussed in detail in the chapter under head "Banking, Trade and Commerce" of this Gazetteer.

Department of commercial taxes :

In ancient days, Sales Tax or taxes similar to sales tax were levied in many countries. According to "Manu" a tax of 5 per cent on the cost price of marketed goods, as on ascertained by experienced men, well acquainted with all goods bought or sold was a chief source of revenue to the State. Indian kingdom like Maurian Empire had effective control over the department, which was incharge of collection of all items of revenue, which included tax, referred to.

This department administers the following fiscal laws : [7]

1. Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959
2. Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax Act, 1970
3. Tamil Nadu Sales Tax(Surcharge) Act, 1971
4. Central Sales Tax Act, 1956
5. Tamil Nadu Entertainment Tax Act, 1939
6. Tamil Nadu Local Authorities Finance Act, 1961
7. Tamil Nadu Betting Tax Act, 1935
8. Tamil Nadu Tax on Luxuries in Hotels and Lodging Houses Act, 1981 and
9. Tamil Nadu Advertisement Tax Act, 1981.

The major collection is divided under the Commercial Sales Tax Law of the State, which had come into effect from 1 October 1939. The Department of Commercial Taxes, Madras, is at present headed by a Commissioner, (Supertime scale IAS Officer) and he is assisted by 4 Joint Commissioners, 17 Deputy Commissioners, 84, Assistant Commissioners, 206 Commercial Tax Officers, 574 Deputy Commercial Tax Officers, 1151 Assistant Commercial Tax Officers, 8 Managers, Superintendents. and other supporting staff.

This department has 9 Commercial Tax Divisions, 34 Commercial Tax Districts and 275 Assessment Circles in the State. The divisions are at Madras (South), Madras (North), Madras (Central), Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli. Each Commercial Tax Division has three or more Commercial Tax Districts.

Kanniyakumari district comes under the control of the Tirunelveli Commercial Tax Division, which is under the control of a Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes. Five Assessment Circles are also functioning in the district, in Nagercoil (Rural), Nagercoil (Town), Nagercoil (Tower Junction), Kuzhithurai and Thuckalay.

There are 17 Appellate Assistant Commissioners functioning in the State. They are having jurisdiction over the Assessment Circles. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli has jurisdiction over all Assessment Circles in Tirunelveli Kattabomman, V.O. Chidambaranar and Kanniyakumari Commercial Tax Districts.

Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal :- There is also Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal functioning with main Bench at Madras, and three Additional Benches at Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore. The main Bench is headed by Chairman, who is in the rank of District Judge, and assisted by a Second Member, who is an officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service or in the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax or a Chartered Accountant having not less than 5 years practical experience and also being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

The Additional Benches are headed by Departmental members, who are in the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes. The Additional Bench located at Madurai has overall control over the Districts of Tirunelveli, Trichy, Pudukottai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, V.O. Chidambaranar and Kanniyakumari.[7]

Enforcement Wing : An Enforcement Wing with two Deputy Commissioners of Commercial Taxes Department is also functioning at Madurai and Madras - under the control of the Deputy Commissioner (Enforcement wing) Madurai, one Assistant Commissioner (Enforcement wing) Tirunelveli, is functioning. The Assistant Commissioner (Enforcement), Tirunelveli has jurisdiction over Kanniyakumari district. One major check post at Kaliakkavilai is maintained by this department in the district.

Department of Employment and Training :

The National Employment Service is the joint responsibility of the Government of India and the State Government as well. The Government of India, are from time to time, laying down National Policies, establishing standard and procedures, and coordinating the work of the Employment Services, while the Government of Tamil Nadu are providing employment to those who have registered their names in the respective Employment Exchanges, commensurate with their educational qualifications and skill, in Government Offices, Corporations, Boards and other Undertakings of the Government, according to seniority. For the purpose of registration of unemployed persons, there are employment exchanges functioning in each district.

The Director of Employment and Training, Madras is the head of the department.[8] He is assisted by three Joint Directors two Deputy Directors, seven Assistant Directors and three District Employment Officers. A Publicity Officer, a Statistician, a Programmer and a Programme Statistician, - all in the cadre of District Employment Officer are looking after the implementation of various programmes referred to, in the following paragraphs.

Four Regional Directorates, each headed by a Deputy Director, have been set up at Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore and Madras to inspect the Employment Exchanges. The Employment Exchanges, Madurai, Anna, Ramanathapuram, Kamarajar, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, Tirunelveli, V.O. Chidambaranar and Kanniyakumari districts lie in Madurai Region while Trichy, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and South Arcot districts lie in Trichy Region. Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Salem, Dharmapuri and Periyar Districts are in Coimbatore Region while Madras, Chingleput, Vellore and North Arcot districts are in Madras Region.

The primary functions of the State Directorate of Employment are administration and control of the Employment Exchanges, coordination of their activities and also to ensure that uniform policies and procedures are observed at the Employment Offices without any discrimination whatsoever.

Implementation of Programmes :

The Directorate is in charge of implementing the following programmes:-

1. The Employment Market Information Programme 2. Enforcement of Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act 1959 and rules thereto. 3. Vocational guidance programme 4. Career Study Centre 5. Occupational Research and Analysis 6. Staff Training 7. Computerisation Scheme 8. Scheme for unemployment Relief in Tamil Nadu 9. Special Cell for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes 10. Inspection of Employment Exchanges 11. Publicity Unit 12. Silk Screen Printing Unit 13. Apprenticeship Scheme and 14. Rehabilitation of Burma/Sri Lanka Repatriates.

The Administrative set up in the Directorate is as follows :–

District Employment Officers.- In every district, there is a District Employment Office located at the respective district headquarters. In Madras, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Madurai and North Arcot district, there are separate District Employment Offices for technical persons to deal with technical personnel below university degree level and craftsmen and other experienced technical persons and vacancies pertaining to them. The main functions of the District Employment Officers are –

1. Registration and placement
2. Collection of employment data under the Employment Market Information Programme.
3. Vocational Guidance and Employment Counselling, and
4. Enforcement of the Employment Exchanges Act 1959.

Organisation and Functions of the Training wing of the Department of Employment and Training : The administration of the Employment Organisation and the Craftsmen Training Scheme was under the control of the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment till 31 October 1956. The Administration of these two wings was transferred to the State Government with effect from 1 Novembr 1956. Originally the Employment Organisation had been placed under the control of Commissioner of Labour as a separate wing of the Labour department, while the training organisation had been placed under the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce. At the instance of the Government of India, the Government examined the question of merger of both Employment Service and Craftsmen Training Schemes under control of the officers responsible for their administration. It was therefore decided that both the wings in this State were merged and brought under the

control of the head of the department. Accordingly, this Department of Employment and Training was formed (as a new department as per G.O.Ms.No.4545 (Labour), dated 18 March 1963), "*Inter-alia*" for implementing the scheme relating to the Craftsmen Training Scheme and Apprenticeship Training Scheme. One Joint Director, Craftsmen Training and one Joint Director, Apprenticeship Training are assisting the Director of Employment and Training.

This Department is in-charge of training the skilled craftsmen under Vocational Training Programme required for various industries. The implementation of number of schemes for the development of industries during the proceeding Five Year Plans both in private and public sectors has resulted in significant demand for such trained personnel in various technical trades. Keeping this in view, various schemes mentioned below are implemented under the training wing of the Directorate of employment and training.

1. Administration of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres as per NCVT pattern implementing Craftsmen Training Programme
2. Apprenticeship Training under Apprenticeship Act 1961
3. Training of craftsmen in private Aided Industrial Schools under the code of regulations for Industrial Schools.
4. Evening Class Scheme for Industrial Workers
5. Advanced Vocational Training System Scheme
6. Staff Training Programme at Industrial Training Institute, Ambattur, Madras.
7. Crash Programme
8. Scheme for short term training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment.
9. Curriculum Development Cell
10. Work and Orientation Training

Details of the Officials attached to the Training wing are –

(1) Joint Director (Craftsmen Training) 1 (2) Joint Director (Apprenticeship Training) 1 (3) Deputy Directors of Training / Deputy Apprenticeship Adviser 6 (4) Regional Deputy Directors 4 (5) Accounts Officer 1 (6) Assistant Director of Training (Industrial School) 1 (7) Assistant Director of Training (Apprentices Act) 2 (8) Administrative Officer 17 (9) (a) Principals of ITI 3 (b) Principals in the Grade of Deputy Director 8 (10) Special Officer-Curriculum Development Cell 1 (11) (a) Assistant Director of Training for Related Instruction Centrse at Ambattur, Guindy, North Madras, Trichy, Hosur, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tirunelveli, Vellore and Cuddalore. (b) Vice-Principals of Industrial Training Institutes including III shift 15 (12) Superintendents 3 and (13) Assistant Accounts Officer 1.

The number of technical and non-technical staff working in the department are 2017 and 1304 respectively.

As regards Kanniyakumari District, a District Employment Office is functioning, under the control of District Employment Officer to cater to the needs of unemployed persons belonging to the district. As on 30 November 1988, as per the live register of this office, there were 103912 persons waiting for employment, which included 43989 women candidates. Particulars of persons (skilled, semi-skilled, graduates, under- graduates and others) to whom employment has been provided from 1970 to 1986 are given in detail in the chapter under the head "Economic Trends" of this Gazetteer.

To alleviate the distress of the unemployed educated youth, Government have formulated a scheme for the payment of an allowance as a measure of unemployment relief to certain categories of job-seekers with effect from July 1980.

As per the scheme, Government sanction a sum of Rs.50 to the SSLC, Rs.75 for PUC or Higher Secondary School Certificate holders, and Rs.100 for the graduates whose parent's monthly income does not exceed Rs.2000. Under this scheme, since 1 July 1980 to 30 September 1988, a sum of Rs.124.92 lakhs was spent for 10551 SSLC candidates, Rs.71.21 lakhs for 4669 PUC or Higher Secondary candidates, and Rs.60.58 lakhs for 1374 graduates in the district.

Department of Education [9]

School Education : The Director of School Education is the Chief Administrative Authority at State level for planning, monitoring and executing development schemes relating to the School Education and the State Council of Educational Research and Training.

The Director of School Education, who is the Head of the Department, is assisted by two Additional Directors, five Joint Directors, six Deputy Directors, eight Assistant Directors, one Financial Controller, Administrative Officer, Chief Accounts Officer, three personal Assistants, two Senior Accounts Officers, one Junior Accounts Officer and two Regional Accounts Officers in the State.

Also one Chief Inspector of Physical Education, for men and one Chief Inspectress of Physical Education for women and 16 Chief Educational Officers, an Inspector of Anglo-Indian Schools, an Inspector of Matriculation Schools, 16 Regional Inspectors of Physical Education for men, four Regional Inspectresses of Physical Education for women, 16 Field Officers for effective implementation of Chief Minister's Noon Meal Programme, 51 District Educational Officers, 15 Inspectresses of Girls Schools, 367 Assistant Educational Officers, 411 Deputy Inspectors of Schools, 51 Deputy Inspectors of Schools for science vans, 35 Additional Deputy Inspectors of Schools and 92 Junior Deputy Inspectors of Schools are working in the State.

The district departmental head is the Chief Educational Officer, Nagercoil. The District Educational Officer, Thuckalay, Nagercoil and Kuzhithurai and an Inspectress of Girls Schools, Nagercoil, are responsible to step up the progress of Education in their respective jurisdiction. Nine Deputy Inspectors of Schools, are also working in the district for the inspection of schools, and for improving the standard of education.

Collegiate Education :

This Directorate is headed by a Director of Collegiate Education, and assisted by a Joint Director and a Deputy Director, Chief Accounts Officer, Special Officer (English), Assistant Director, Senior Accounts Officer, Special Officers I and II for scholarships, Personal Assistant to the Director and five Regional Deputy Directors of Collegiate Education at Madras, Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore Regions.

The Regional Deputy Director, Tirunelveli looks after the functions of this department, pertaining to Kanniyakumari district. All the Colleges in the district come under the supervisory control of the Regional Deputy Director, Tirunelveli. Details regarding the strength of each educational institution, subjects taught, standard of education, medium of instructions, etc. are given in the Chapter titled "Education" of this Gazetteer.

Department of Fisheries

The Director of Fisheries is the Head of the Department. He is assisted by Joint Directors of Fisheries, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Assistant Directors of Fisheries, Accounts Officer, an Engineering wing, and other supporting staff. A Staff Training Institute , is also run under the leadership of a Principal and this institute is also under the control of the Director. The Director of Fisheries is also Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation.

For the administrative convenience, this department has been divided into five Regions *viz.*, Madras, Nagapattinam, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tuticorin and each region is placed under the control of a Deputy Director of Fisheries.

Kanniyakumari district forms part of Tuticorin Region. The following officials are in charge of implementation of the schemes relating to the department in Kanniyakumari district :–

Assistant Director	Nagercoil
Assistant Director	Fisherman Training Centre Colachel.
Assistant Director	Inshore Fishing Station Kanniyakumari.

There is a Fish Farmers Development Agency in the district, which is functioning under the control of the District Collector. This agency is supervised by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Engineering Unit of this Directorate, under the control of the Superintending Engineer for Fishing Harbour Project Circle, is functioning at Nagercoil. The Superintending Engineer looks after the functions of the Chinnamuttam Fishing Harbour Project Division II, also. [10]

Inspectors of Fisheries, Sub-Inspectors of Fisheries, Cooperative Sub-Registrars, Senior Inspectors of Cooperative Societies, Sub-Assistant Inspectors, Fisherman, Fishing guards and foreman and ministerial staff are the complementary staff of this department.

Forest Department

Forest is one of the most important renewable natural asset, which forms a basic constituent of our environment. Forests maintain ecological balance, clean up air, regulate flow of springs, prevents floods and soil erosion, particularly for seasonal rains.

This Department is at present headed by a Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. At headquarters (Madras),he is assisted by a Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning and Development), Chief Wild Life Warden, in the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forest (Social Forestry), and other technical and ministerial staff.

The wild Life Wing is divided into two regions, Southern Region with headquarters at Rajapalayam and Northern Region with headquarters at Vandalore. Each region is headed by a Conservator of Forest. In addition to this, for administrative convenience, this department has six territorial circles at Salem, Vellore, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli. The functional Circle has three Conservator of Forests, one each for Research, Working Plan, and Development. The Social Forestry Wing has one Chief Conservator of Forests, (SF), Research one Conservator of Forests, four conservators of forests one each at Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Salem and Tirunelveli regions.

Kanniyakumari district comes under the territorial circle of Tirunelveli, which is headed by a Conservator of Forests. The administration and protection of Forest in the Kanniyakumari district are under the control of District Forest Officer (Territorial) and Divisional Forest Officer (cloves) and Forest Protection Squad. These officials are placed under the direct control of the Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli. The District Forest Officer supervises the forest administration and executes the developmental programmes in forestry in the district. The Divisional Forest Officer (Cloves) is in charge of the cloves plantations raised in the district.

Forest protection squad is headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests, who is assisted by Rangers and Foresters. The main functions of the squad are protection of forests and detection of forest offences such as illicit felling of trees and smuggling of forest products and initiating criminal action against the offenders. The forest guards and watchers are in charge of beats and keep constant vigil on protection aspects, and supervise all items of work at field level.

In this district, during 1986-87, softwood plantation was raised in 40 hectares at a cost of Rs. 1.01 lakhs. This department has proposed to implement new schemes like water harvest, raising of plantation under Wasteland Development Programme during the Seventh Plan period. Albezzia Falcota tree species, which are mainly used for the construction of catamarans, are raised in the district.

As regards cloves, it is a dollar earning crop, which is being raised in the district in large scale, when compared to other southern districts. The Cloves Division is under the management of a Speical Divisional Forest Officer. The area under this plantation is 110 hectares. For its maintenance during 1986-87, a sum of Rs.8.51 lakhs was spent by this department.[11]

Another major Plantation in the Forest areas of this district is 'Rubber'. Till the year 1985-86, Rubber plantations were raised in 4785 hectares. Rubber plantation is looked after by a Chariman-*Cum*-Managing Director, who is assisted by General Manager and Divisional Managers in charge of divisions.

Fire Service Department

The Tamil Nadu Fire Service Department, which is functioning as a separate department since October 1967 is one of the largest and most efficient organisations of the State. This department is meant for saving life and property from destruction by fire. It attends to all activities designed towards prevention and extinguishing fire.

This department is not just a unit to prevent and put out fire but it does emergency relief services to the public; so to say, the department is service oriented and dedicated to the saving of public life and property, not only at times of fire accident but during all types of natural calamities like floods, cyclone, lightning, earthquake, building collapse, bites of poisonous wasps, venomous snakes and rabid dogs and the like. The

peculiar feature is that it does not charge any fees for the services rendered in public interest since its services are free of cost.

This department also provides fire protection arrangements at times of fairs and festivals, attends to rescue of human lives and animals lives from disasters. Ambulances are also maintained by this department in major towns. The sick and injured are removed to hospitals for immediate medical aid at nominal hire charges. The services of this department are quite indispessable to the public round the clock. During elections, riots, etc., the services of the field personnel of this Department are utilised by the police. At the time of epidemic, the Fire service department assists the Public Health Department for eradication of diseases. Besides, the varied humanitarian services, the officers of this department are also charged with the duty of inspecting the premises licensed or to be licensed are fire proof. In one way or other, just like police, the fire service department is also helpful to the society in the prevention of major crimes, such as bootleggery, etc.

This department is under the administrative control of the Director of Fire Services, who is an Indian Police Service Officer, in the rank of Inspector General of Police. The State has been divided into three Regions, viz., North with headquarters at Madras, Central with headquarters at Tiruchirappalli and South with headquarters at Madurai. Each region is under the charge of a Deputy Director of Fire Service. Each region has been further sub-divided into Divisons, each comprising one or more districts, and each under the charge of a Divisional Fire Officer, who is assisted by an Assistant Divisional Fire Officer in the administration and operational work. At present, this department has 16 Divisions and 171 Fire Stations under its control.

The fire service activities of Kanniyakumari district, at present is looked after by the Divisional Fire Officer Nagercoil, and under his control, five Fire Stations, one each at Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari, Kulasekaram, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai, are functioning.

Each Fire service station is under the command of a Station Fire Officer, two Leading Firemen, Firemen Drivers and Firemen. During 1986, the number of leading firemen in the district was seven, the number of Firemen Drivers 13 and Firemen 49.[12] During 1985, the Fire service department attended 128 fire calls, of which properties worth of Rs.42.80 lakhs were safeguarded, and 23 persons were rescued. Thus, the department is doing an excellent job, in public interest.

Highways and Rural Works Department

This department is in charge of planning, designing, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in Tamil Nadu, and offers technical guidance to the Panchayat unions in respect of Rural Works Programme and repairs to Minor Irrigation tanks having a water spread area of less than 50 acres. This department is chalking out plans for road system efficiently within the resources available. The Chief Engineer (Highways and Rural works) is having overall control on all establishment matters and on taking policy decisions. The department is the executing agency for constructing buildings under Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project in the State and 'DANIDA' Scheme in selective places. Apart from the regular Chief Engineer, there are six other special Chief Engineers, viz.,

(i) Chief Engineer, National Highways (ii) Chief Engineer, Pamban Bridge Project (iii) Director, Highways Research Station; (iv) Chief Engineer, National Highways 45; (v) Chief Engineer (Highways) Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme; and (iv) Chief Engineer (Highways) East Coast Road.

This department maintains as much as 39,912 kilometres length of roads which include National Highways (Urban), State Highways, Major District Roads and other District Roads.

The Government have been concentrating on the development of rural areas which are in need of communication facilities. Besides rural roads scheme and schemes in respect of bus routes taken over, the rural roads are being improved under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) with full financial assistance from Government of India.

The staffing pattern is :

(i) Chief Engineer Highways and Rural Works Department (ii) Senior Deputy Chief Engineer (H & RW) (iv) Senior Deputy Chief Engineer (Planning) (iii) Senior Deputy Chief Engineer (Technical Cell) (v) Deputy Chief Engineer (RLEGP) and (Vi) Accounts Officer (Common).

Their complementary staff consist of Personal Assistants, Additional Personal Assistants, Technical Assistants, Chief Head Draughtsman and Deputy Accounts Officers.

The field staff of this department consist of nine superintending Engineers. Of them, three for designs, mechanical and traffic cell and four others for regions and two for Investigation wings. These investigation wings are functioning at Trichy and Villupuram.

The Madras Region includes Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot and North Arcot, districts while Trichy region consists of Trichy, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Madurai and Anna districts. The Coimbatore region consists of the Nilgiris, Salem and Dharmapuri districts and the Tirunelveli region comprises of Tirunelveli, Kottabomman, V.O. Chidambaranar, Kanniyakumari, Kamarajar, Pasumpon, Muthuramalingam and Ramanathapuram districts.

Under the control of the Superintending Engineers, the Engineering subordinates working are Divisional Engineers, Assistant Divisional Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Union Engineers and Union Overseers.

In Kanniyakumari district, this department is functioning at Nagercoil under the control of the Divisional Engineer (H&RW) and under the supervisory control of the Superintending Engineer (H) Tirunelveli. The Divisional Engineer is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the entire roads and net work in this district. He is also in charge of the construction of various bridges and new roads, sanctioned by the Government every now and then. He is also the technical head, for all the Development Programmes undertaken by the panchayat unions. The district comprises of 4 taluks.

Every taluk has a sub-division headed by an Assistant Divisional Engineer who is responsible for the maintenance of all roads vested with Government. He is also incharge of new bridge construction and formation of new roads. He is Technical Officer to supervise and control the developmental programmes implemented in the Panchayat Union set up. He is assisted by an Assistant Engineer for effectively supervising the road system. The Union Engineers supervise the road works lying in Panchayat Union limits. At present, under the immediate control of the Divisional Engineer, Nagercoil, four Assistant Divisional Engineers, one each at Nagercoil, Thovalai, Thuckalai and Kuzhithurai are working. Under the control of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Nagercoil an Assistant Engineer, at Nagercoil, two Union Engineers, one at Agasthiswaram and the other at Rajakkamangalam are working. The

Assistant Divisional Engineer, Thovalai has an Assistant Engineer and a Union Engineer. Under the control of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Thuckalai, an Assistant Engineer and three Union Engineers one each at Thuckalai, Kurunthencode and Tiruvattar are working.

The Assistant Divisional Engineer, Kuzhithurai is having control over an Assistant Engineer, and three Union Engineers of Melpuram, Killiyoor and Munchirai Panchayat Unions.

Each Divisional Engineer, is also assisted by a Divisional Accountant and Manager, Superintendent and a Head Draughtsman; in the speedy execution of various works.[13]

The supporting staff of the Assistant Engineers and Union Engineers at field level are designated as Road Inspectors. They control the work of Road Gang Mazdoors and contract labourers. For more details, regarding the various schemes executed, funds provided and method of execution, kindly refer the Chapter-VII. "Communications' of this Gazetteer.

Hindu Religious And Charitable Endowments Department

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department was set up in 1960 for the purpose of the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments , Mutts and Jain Endowments, and also for the preservation of precious and ancient inscriptions, sculptures, copper plates and ornaments jewels and other funds in the temples.[14]

This Department is under the control of a Commissioner (Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments) at Madras, who is assisted by 2 Joint Commissioners, 8 Deputy commissioners and 17 Assistant Commissioners in the whole State. These officers are the statutory authorities for the proper implementation of the various provisions of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959 (Tamil Nadu Act, 22 of 1959).

Besides the above officials, there are Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioners, who along with a complementary staff, appraise and evaluate the Jewels and other valuables belonging to the

religious institutions. There is a Personal Assistant to the Commissioner in the rank of Deputy Commissioner, and an Additional Personal Assistant to the Commissioner in the rank of Deputy Commissioner, in the administrative side.

A Chief Audit Officer is functioning in this department with the necessary complement of subordinate officers and staff for auditing the accounts of the various religious institutions all over the State.

In addition, there is an engineering wing, headed by a Superintending Engineer drawn from Highways Department He is assisted by a Divisional Engineer and necessary supervisory officers and staff in the districts for the preparation of estimates and execution of *'Thiruppani'* and construction works of Hindu Religious Institutions.

A Revenue wing with a Special Officer in the cadre of a District Revenue Officer and five Special Tahsildars attend to temple land investigation and preparation of records, connected with temple lands and buildings.

A Special Officer, in the cadre of an Assistant Commissioner, assists the Commissioner in conducting enquiries on disciplinary cases viz., serious complaints and allegations made against the staff. In order to investigate into the irregularities noticed in the functioning of certain mutts in the state, a Deputy Commissioner together with complementary staff has been appointed. He takes up surprise inspection of places concerned for the spot study.

This department has Regional Adminstrative Officers and each region is under the control of a Deputy Commissioner. The regions are located at Madras, Salem, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Trichy, Myladuthurai, Madurai and Thirunelveli. Kanniyakumari District is under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Thirunelveli.

The present Kanniyakumari district and the Shencottah taluk of Thirunelveli district previously formed part of the erstwhile Travancore State. The temples situated in these areas were administered by the rulers of Travancore state till the Land Revenue Department of Travancore State took the administration of temples in 1861 A.D. It was under the control of the Land Revenue Department till 1921. From 1922, these temples were being administered by a separate 'Devaswom Department' formed by the Travancore State. This Department continued to

administer the temples till 31 July 1949 and from 1 August 1949, the statutory body known as the "Travancore Devaswom Board", has taken charge of the department.

Consequent on the States Reorganisation on linguistic basis w.e.f. 1 November 1956, i.e., after the formation of Kanniyakumari district, the temples under the direct control of the Travancore State and which were incorporated or otherwise, prior to the formation of the district, were placed under the control of the statutory body known as the "Kanniyakumari Devaswom Board" constituted under the Tamil Nadu Act, 30 of 1959. This board administered these temples till 31 December 1974. From 1 January 1975, the temples, were brought under the direct administrative control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department by the Act, 50 of 1974.

As per this Act, an Executive Officer, in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner has been appointed for the proper administration of the 490 temples placed under in the control of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

Also a Trust Board with five members, for a term of 3 years is constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the upkeep, maintenance and administration of these temples, under the guidance of the Chairman of the trust.

There are Temple Superintendents, each incharge of a group of temples, who supervise the day to day administration of the temples, coming under their respective groups. Further, there are also thirty nine Sub-Group Officers otherwise called Managers or Sreekariams, who look after the daily affairs of the temples incharge of the Sub-Groups.

The Trust Board, with five members for a period of 3 years was last constituted during 1980. After the expiry of the term in 1983, no Trust Board was constituted afresh. The Chairman of the old Trust Board, was discharging the duties and excercising the powers of the Trust as 'Fit person' till 3 September 1987.

As per the order of the Government issued in G.0. Ms. No.990/CT & R.E. Department, dated 3 September 1987 the Deputy Commissioner (H.R. & C.E.) Department, Thirunelveli region is now discharging the duties and excercising the powers of the Trust, since 4 September 1987. Under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Tirunelveli, there are twc

Assistant Commissioners, functioning in Kanniyakumari district, one as Assistant Commissioner/Executive officer for Incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms (KDB) in Kanniyakumari District having its headquarters at Suchindrum, another Assistant Commissioner at Nagercoil for temples other incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms in Kanniyakumari district.

The Assistant Commissioner H.R.& C.E. Administration Department, Nagercoil is having control over 436 non-listed temples. Under his control, one Junior Engineer, one Head Clerk, six Inspectors, three Executive Officers, two Assistants, four Junior Assistants, Typist, Steno-Typist, Record Clerk and Nightwatchman, and eight Office Assistants are working. Under the administrative control of the Assistant Commissioner (H.R.& C.E.) Suchindram, 88 Government servants, such as Temple Superintendents, Manager, Assistants,Junior Assistants and Overseers and 1040 temple servants, such an Archakars, Nathaswaram and Thavil Vidwans and other menials are working.

To augment the resources of the temples, this department has proposed to implement the following schemes :–

(i) Kodi Archanai Vazhipadu Scheme ; (ii) Daily Archanai Pooja Vazhipadu Scheme; and (iii) Construction of Marriage Halls and shops in the available vacant sites of the temples.

This department owns 138 acres of wet land, 235 acres of dry land and 648 acres of manavari land in the district. These lands are under the tenancy cultivation of the local agriculturists. From the above lands Rs.3.75 lakhs in cash and 60900 litres of paddy, are anticipated during 1987-88, towards lease rent. This department also maintains three elephants. Their names are "Gopalan" "Rajan" and "Indiran" the services of which are utilised for processions during important Devaswom festivals.

Under Article 290 (A) of the Constitution of India, Government of Tamil Nadu contributes Rs. 13.5 lakhs to the 458 incorporated temples in the district. Besides, income is also derived by way of lease of lands, gardens, buildings, hundi receipts, archanai fees paid by the devotees etc. The total income and expenditure of the 458 incorporated Devaswoms for the year 1986-87 were Rs.47.03 lakhs and Rs.60.95 lakhs respectively. The break up for the 490 temples are as follows:-

(i) In-corporated Temples-458, (ii) un incorporated temples-18, (iii) Sanketam temples -12 (iv) Sreepadam temples -2.

The important and ancient temples among these 490 temples are.–

Arulmigu Kanniyakumari Amman Temple, Kanniyakumari; Arulmigu Thanumalayappermal Temple, Suchindram; Arulmigu Nagarajaswami Temple, Nagercoil; Arulmigu Bhagavathiamman Temple, Mondaikkadu; Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Velimalai; and Arulmigu Adikesavapperumal Temple, Thiruvattar.

Department of Information, Tourism and Public Relations

This department was created with a view to inform and educate the masses on the policies and programmes of the Government and to keep them informed of the progress achieved in various nation building endeavours.

At present, at Government level, the Department of Information, Tourism and Public Relations, is headed by Special Commissioner and Secretary to Government (Information and Tourism). He is assisted by Joint Secretary to Government an Ex-officio Director of Information and Public Relations, Joint Director (Administration), Joint Director (Exhibition) and four Deputy Directors, looking after the demarcated subjects like mass media, publication, etc. The Joint Secretary to Government is the Director of Information and Public Relations and he is the Head of the Department.

Immediately after the re-organisation of States and the formation of new district of Kanniyakumari in 1956, the then Madras Government extended the publicity schemes to Kanniyakumari district. As a first step, an Information Centre, under the charge of an Information Assistant, was opened at Nagercoil in October 1957.

Now, there is an Information and Public Relations Officer, who is assisted by two Assistant Public Relations Officers. The Information and Public Relations Officer is in-charge of issue of news items to all press correspondents, All India Radio, and T.V. after getting the approval of the Collector, in all matters, concerning the district administration and development. He is also incharge of all arrangements for Governmet functions as and when orders are issued by the Government. He is under

the administrative control of the Director of Information and Public Relations, Madras. The Services of the Cinema Operators have been placed at his disposal, who are periodically visiting villages, information centres and other places and exhibiting films concerning various schemes like Family Welfare Programmes, Small Savings, Agriculture, National Integration etc. A full time photographer is also working under the control of the Information and Public Relations Officer, whose services are utilised for taking photographs, during important Government functions, under the orders of the Collector.

Judicial Department

The policy of the Government is to ensure justice to all citizens according to the principles enshrined in the constitution of India.[15] The administration of Justice is the responsibility of the various Courts, whose function is absolutely independent of the executive and the administrative machinery of the Government. The sphere, in which the Government can play useful and dominant role, in the elimination of delays can be evidenced by the Government, sanctioning new and additional Courts, wherever necessary on the recommendation of the High Court and by providing all amenities, that are required for functioning of the courts including that of staff, furniture and accommodation.

In the Mofussil, there are Government Pleaders, Public Prosecutors and Additional Public Prosecutors under the administrative control of the District Collectors. In the courts of the District Munsiff and Sub-Courts. Advocates are nominated to do Government work and they are paid admitted fees only. They are not eligible for any retainers fee. The admitted fee paid to Law Officers are debited by the Head of the Department concerned. Admitted fee is paid on the basis of work done by the Law Officers and it is sanctioned either by Government or by the Head of the Departments as the case may be commensurate with the financial limit fixed.

The Assistant Public Prosecutors, Grade - I & II in the city and Mofussil are appointed by the State Government under section 25 of the Code of Criminial procedure 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974) for attending to prosecution to cases in all courts of Magistrates. They are full time Government Servants on regular time scales of pay.

At present, there is no head of the department to exercise supervision and control over the Assistant Public Prosecutors. For administrative convenience, the Assistant Public Prosecutors in the mofussil have been

placed under the control of the Collectors of the districts, and the Assistant Public Prosecutors in Madras City, under the control of the Commissioner of Police, Madras.

The Government have recently issued orders for the formation of the new department viz, the "Directorate of Prosecution". According to these orders, the office of the Director of Prosecution will be at Madras, and eight offices of the Assistant Directors will function at regions like Madras, Chengalpattu, Trichy, Madurai, Thirunelveli, Coimbatore, Vellore and Ramanathapuram. Various items of work relating to the formation of the new Department are attended to by a Special Officer at Madras. The Department will be formed.

In Kanniyakumari District, a District Sessions Court is functioning at Nagercoil. Besides, there are three Subordinate Judges Courts functioning at Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai, and Padmanabhapuram (for more details the chapter on "Law and Order and Justice" may be referred).

Labour Department

The maintenance of industrial peace and harmony by the timely intervention and settlement of industrial disputes by way of conciliation talks at frequent intervals between the managements of industrial establishments and their workers, is the main function of the labour department. In addition, this department, is responsible for the enforcement of various labour legislations, which are designed to confer secutity of serivce, ensure better working conditions and welfare and to promote social security measures to the working class.

The Commissioner of Labour is the head of department, who is functioning in Madras. He is assisted by second and third level officers to attend to various items of work such as conduct of conciliation talks, payment of minimum wages to labourers, implementation of correct weights and measures by the merchant community etc. The details of officers in-charge of these items of work, are as follows:-

Conciliation –

Joint Commissioner of Labour – (Conciliation)

Joint Commissioner of Labour – (Administration)

(Who is also the Chief Inspector of Plantations)

Special Deputy Commissioner of Labour

Deputy Commissioner of Labour (Appeals)

Deputy Commissioner of Labour (Headquarters)

Minimum Wages –

Deputy Commissioner of Labour	–	(Minimum wages)
Assistant Commissioner of Labour	–	(Contract Labour)
Administrative Officer	–	(Minimum wages)

Administration –

Assistant Commissioner of Labour	–	(Estt. and General)
Accounts Officer Administrative Officer	–	(General)
Public Relations Officer		

Weights and Measures –

Deputy Inspector of Labour	–	(Headquarters)
Administrative Officer	–	(Weights and Measures)
Deputy Commissioner of Labour	–	(Headquarters)

In the regions the Commissioner of Labour is also assisted by Joint Commissioners of Labour, Regional Deputy Commissioners of Labour, Inspectors and Deputy Inspector, at Nagercoil in district level to implement the various functions referred to. The regional and district level officers and their statutory functions are as follows :-

There are three Joint Commissioners of labour at regional level, whose offices are situated at Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai. The Joint Commissioner of Labour, Madras is having Jurisdiction over the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot. The Joint Commissioner of Labour, Coimbatore is having Jurisdiction over the districts of Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Periyar, Salem and Dharmapuri. While the Joint Commissioner of Labour, Madurai is incharge of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, Kamarajar, Anna, Nellai Kattabomman, Chidambaram, Trichirappalli, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Kanniyakumari districts. The Regional Deputy Commissioners of Labour are working under the control of Joint Commissioners of Labour viz. Deputy Commissioners of Labour I and II Trichirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Salem.

Regional level Officials are :

Assistant Commissioner of Labour – 15, Labour Officer – 20, Inspector of Labour – 19, Inspector of Plantations – 7, Medical Officer (Plantations) – 2, Deputy Inspector of Labour – 65, Assistant Inspector of Labour – 206, Stamping Inspector of Labour – 63 and Statistical Inspector – 16.

Under the supervision of the Regional Joint Commissioner of Labour, Madurai, the Regional Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Tirunelveli is working who looks after the affairs of the department, in his region. Kanniyakumari district comes under the control of the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Tirunelveli. Under his control, an Assistant Commissioner of Labour, (Conciliation) one Inspector of Plantations, one Medical Officer (Plantations), two Deputy Inspectors of Labour and seven Assistant Inspectors of Labour, are working.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Conciliation), and the Labour officers are responsible for conciliation and settlement of industrial disputes, which arise in their jurisdiction with utmost promptitude. The Inspector of Plantation is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951.

The Deputy Inspectors of Labour and the Assistant Inspectors of Labour assist the Inspector of Labour in the enforcement of various non-technical labour legislations irrespective of all establishments other than factories and plantations. The details of various legislations enforced are dealt within the chapter on "Other Social Services" of this Gazetteer.

Medical Department

Under the control of the Health and Family Welfare Department at Secretariat, the following Directorates are functioning as seperate department heads to implement various Health Care Programmes, of the general public :–

1. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine;
2. The Director of Primary Health Centres;
3. The Director of Medical Services and Family Welfare;
4. The Director of Public Health, Training and Continuing Education;
5. The Director of Family Welfare;

6. The Director of Medical Education; and

7. The Director of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy.

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Madras is the head of Public Health and Preventive Medicine department. He implements various health schemes such as Plague Control, Epidemic Control, Guineaworm Eradication Programme, Malaria and Filaria Control Programmes.

The Director is assisted by two Additional Directors, Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Chief Entomologist, Assistant Director (Statistics) and Chief Accounts Officer in the headquarters and seven Regional Deputy Dirctors of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in the Regions, and 29 District Health Officers, each incharge of a Health Unit District.

The Director of Medical Services and Family Welfare Department, executes all programmes relating to Medical Services and Family Welfare and also the schemes such as Employees State Insurance Scheme. The Director of Medical Services and Family Welfare is assisted by three Joint Directors for each programme. (i.e) Planning and Development, Theropic Medicine and Medical. There are two Additional Directors, one for Leprosy Control Programme and the other for Employees State Insurance Programme.

The District Leprosy Officer and the District Tuberculosis Officers are independent District Officers for implementing the relevant programme in district level and they are under the supervisory control of the District Medical Officer. However, the District Leprosy Officer has been given equal powers of the District Medical Officer in respect of Leprosy Programme and Establishment. He is responsible for rural medical care through the district, taluk and other medical institutions including Government dispensaries. The Director is assisted by Deputy Director of Medical Services who is responsible for Planning and Development and for the implementation of Leprosy and Tuberculosis Control Programme.

The Director of Primary Health Centres is responsible for the administration of primary health centres. The primary health centres, which are functioning in the State are placed under his control. The Director is assisted by a Deputy Director and an Administrative Officer in the State.

The District Medical Officer is in charge of the Medical Services in the district. To implement Leprosy, and Tuberculosis schemes, a separate District Leprosy Officer, and a District Tuberculosis Officers are functioning in the district. Schemes relating to Mobile Health Services, Community Health Centres and Mini Health Centres are implemented in the district under instruction from the Director of Primary Health Centres.

The District Family Welfare and Maternity and Child Health Officer, Nagercoil is incharge of implementation of Family Welfare Programmes. He is working under the administrative control of the Director, State Family Welfare Bureau, Madras. For more details please refer the chapter on "Medical and Public Health Services" of this Gazetteer.

Police Department [17]

The Police Department of Tamil Nadu occupies a prominent place in the whole of India. Tamil Nadu has been the forerunner for having started the Women Police Wing and implementing welfare schemes like providing commodities at subsidised rates and extending housing facilities for the police personnel. This department maintains excellent public relations and functions with great efficiency, courage and determination.

This department is headed by the Director General of Police at State level. The Director General of Police is assisted by 4 Inspectors General of Police, Deputy Inspectors General, Assistant Inspectors General, Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Additional Superintendents of Police, Personal Assistants, Assistant Director of Statistics, Senior Accounts Officer, Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Police, Inspectors, Sub- Inspectors and Constables.

The State has been divided into six ranges and 23 Police Districts. Each range is headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police. Likewise, each Police District is placed under the control of the Superintendent of Police. Kanniyakumari district is placed under the control of the Deputy Inspector General, Tirunelveli, Range and under his guidance and supervision, the Superintendent of Police, Kanniyakumari is functioning. Under the control of the Superintendent of Police, one Additional Superintendent, 6 Deputy Superintendents, 22 Inspectors and 75

Sub-Inspectors are working (For more details the chapter on "Law and Order and Justice" of this Gazetteer may please be referred).

Department of Prisons

Prior to 1977, the Sub-jails, numbering about 119 were under the control of the Revenue Department. In between 1977 and October 1983, all of them have been brought under the control of the Prison Department. This department maintains 8 Central Prisons, two special prisons for women one at Vellore and another at Madurai, one Borstal school at Pudukottai, 3 special sub-jails, 117 sub-jails, one open air prison at Singanallur and one garden (open air) prison attached to Central Prison, Salem.

The head of the Department is the Inspector General of Prisons. The Inspector General is assisted by Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Accounts Officer, Assistant Accounts Officer, Personal Assistant, Superintendent of Prisons, Additional Superintendents, Jailors, Assistant Surgeons, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Officers, and other ministerial staff.

Three sub-jails are functioning in Kanniyakumari district at Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai. The Superintendent, Central Prison, Palayamkottai is the Controlling Officer of these sub-jails. Each sub-jail is incharge of an Assistant Jailor designated as Sub-Jail Superintendent, assisted by Warders in the day to day administration.[18]

Public Works Department

This department is in charge of executing all works such as construction of dams, reservoirs, anicuts, bridges, weirs, culverts, reclamation of lands and also deepening of major irrigation tanks under their control, river conservancy works, major channels and canal schemes, construction and repairs to Government buildings and the like. In order to ensure prompt execution and completion of works, each major item of work is in charge of a Chief Engineer, and he is assisted by second level and third level officers and other complementary staff.

This department is headed by 8 Chief Engineers one Chief Architect, a number of Superintending Engineers, Senior Deputy Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Deputy Chief Engineers, Director, Deputy Director, Senior Architect, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Head Draughting Officer, Special Officers,

Administrative Officers, and other complementary staff. For the administrative convenience this department has also been further divided into Territorial Circles and Divisions. The Superintending Engineer is in charge of Tirunelveli Circle, which includes Tirunelveli Kattabomman, V.O. Chidambaranar and Kanniyakumari districts.

Kanniyakumari Division was one of the Irrigation Divisions in erstwhile Travancore State-and on merger of the district with the Tamil Nadu in 1956, this has become one of the Public Works Department Divisions in Tamilnadu. This Division has jurisdiction over the entire district, both in maintenance and construction of irrigation structures and buildings. Consequent on the reorganisation of Public Works Department in 1968, this division is the only Public Works Division functioning as Regular Territorial Division for the entire district. This division is having four permanent sub-divisions under its control, viz,

1 Nagercoil sub-division - at Nagercoil having Jurisdiction over Agasthiswaram, Thovalai and Kalkulam taluks;

2 Thuckalay sub-division - Thuckalay having Jurisdiction over Kalkulam and Agasthiswaram taluks ;

3 Cheruppalur sub-division - Cheruppalur having Jurisdiction over Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks ;

4 Investigation sub-division - Thuckalay having Jurisdiction all over the district.

The first three sub-divisions are functioning as Regular Territorial Sub-Divisions, while the fourth one is attending to investigation and preparation of estimates for Minor Irrigation Schemes. The control of Investigation Sub-Division Thuckalay was temporarily transferred to Pattanamkal Division, Nagercoil with effect from 1 January 1975 and this Division was detached from Pattanamkal Division and reattached with the Kanniyakumari Division with effect from 1 March 1977, on closure of Pattanamkal Division. The Investigation Sub-Division at Thuckalay was subsequently detached from this Division and attached with the Project Investigation Division at Palayamcottai with effect from 1 April 1982. Similarly, out of 6 sections in Nagercoil Sub- Division, one Electrical Section at Nagercoil was also detached from this Division and attached with the Electrical Sub-Division at Palayamcottai with effect from 1 February 1983.

Meanwhile, sanction was accorded for the formation of a Special Sub-Division exclusively for the construction of school buildings in Kanniyakumari district.[19] This Sub-Division was formed on 18 May 1970 at Nagercoil and it still continues. After its formation, a number of school building works have been taken up for execution and completed by this sub-division in Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai sections. On completion of Chittar Dam-I & II and Pattanamkal Projects by the defunct Project Division, the two reservoirs and channel were attached with this division, for further maintenance.

In the meantime sanction was accorded for the formation of Pattanamkal sub-division at Kuzhithurai for the maintenance and water regulation of Pattanamkal Main Canal and its allied distributories and field canal.[20] This sub-division is functioning under the control of Kanniyakumari Division since 1 March 1977 on closure of Pattanamkal Division with four sections, viz.,

1 Machinary Section, Cheruppalur-Chittar Dam I & II,

2 Thiruvattar Section, Thiruvattar - Pattanamkal Channel,

3 Kuzhithurai Section, Pattanamkal Channel and

4 Karungal Section, Karungal distributary.

These sub-divisions, with their 4 sections are attending to the maintenance of the above two reservoirs and Pattanamkal Channel with all its branches, and its water regulation for irrigation purposes.

The three regular territorial sub-divisions under the control of this division (i.e. Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Cheruppalur sub- divisions) are attending to maintenance of works, upkeep of Public Works Department tanks, Government PWD buildings, constructions of anicuts and new buildings, costing less than Rs.2 lakhs. Besides miscellaneous items of work such as issue of stability certificates to permanent and temporary buildings, which are used for public purposes like cinema, schools, colleges, strong rooms and treasuries, temple cars and issue of certificates of reasonableness of rent for private buildings occupied by the government offices within the jurisdiction of this division are also attended to. This division is also looking after the operation and maintenance of all irrigation systems in the district and Hanumanadhi systems and Radhapuram canal in Tirunelveli district.[21] On closure of Anandanar Modernisation Division, Nagercoil, sanctioned in G.O.Ms. No. 1019,

PWD, dated 2 July 1981, for Modernisation of Anandanar Main Channel and its branches and construction of two anicuts across river Thadayayar and excavation of supply channel, one Sub-Divison is attached with Kanniyakumari Division for completing the residual works and for further maintenance as per G.O.Ms. No. Rt. 181/PWD/ dated 23 February 1988. This sub-division is functioning under Kanniyakumari Division, since 1 May 1988.

The various irrigation systems in the district, their ayacut lands, crops cultivated, target and achievement for the previous years are given in detail in another chapter titled "Agriculture and Irrigation" of this Gazetteer.

Registration Department

In the year 1834, the Court of Directors of the East India Company proposed the enactments of a law making registration of deeds relating to immovable property compulsory under such penalties and safe guards as might be deemed requisite. Legislative proposals were accordingly made and the subject was passed as India Act of 1864. Over the years, this Act had undergone several modifications. The latest Act is the Indian Registration Act 1908 (Central Act No.XVI of 1908).

The Registration department came into being as a separate Department in December 1864. Col.R.M. Macdonald was appointed as the first Registrar General. The other categories of officers then appointed were the District Registrars. Till 1942, Officers of the other departments were appointed as Inspectors General of Registration. In 1942, an officer belonging to this department in the category of District Registrar, was promoted and appointed as Inspector General of Registration, in the cadre of I.A.S.

This department has been mainly established for the administration of the Registration Act 1908, which deals with registration of documents and maintenance of permanent records. The Sub-Registrars, District Registrars, Inspectors of Registration and Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Registration are vested with powers under certain specified sections of the indian Stamp Act.

The Inspector General of Registration is the head of the department. He is having administrative and disciplinary control over all the district and Sub Registrar Offices in the State. He is also the Registrar General of Births and Deaths and Marriages and also the Director of Chits. At

headquarters he is assisted by an Additional Inspector General of Registration, Personal Assistant, one Additional Registrar of Chits, in the cadre of I.G. of Registration and 21 Personal Assistants (Chits), apart from other complementary ministerial staff.

The Additional Inspector General is in the cadre of Joint Secretary to Government and the Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Registration and Additional Registrar of Chits in the cadre of Deputy Inspector General of Registration, three Personal Assistants (Chits) in the cadre of District Registrar are also functioning under the control of A.I.G. He investigates into the complaints under the Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act, 1961, inspects records maintained under the Chit Funds Act by Chit Companies and does various items of work connected with Chit Funds Act, under the directions of the Director of Chits.

For the administrative convenience, the State has been divided into 4 zones, with headquarters at Vellore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore, and eight regions viz., Madras, Coimbatore, Salem, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Madurai and 46 Registration Districts having Jurisdiction over 567 Sub-Registry offices. Each region is further divided into several Registration Districts and each Registration District is divided into several Sub-Registration Districts. (The Registration district is quite different from Revenue district as more than one Registration district may be in a Revenue district.)

The Inspector of Registration is incharge of a Region consisting of five or six Registration districts. He makes surprise inspection as well as annual inspection of the Sub-Registry offices. He is also entrusted with the powers of a Collector under certain sections of the Indian Stamp Act, as in the case of the District Registrar.

The District Registrars are the administrative heads of Registration districts. They have to conduct annual and surprise Inspection of Sub-Registrar offices in their respective Registration districts, enquire into under-valuation cases and take further action on them. They are also to hear appeals and the applications on orders of refusal to register documents passed by the Sub-Registrars. They are also the Registrars of Firms, Registrars of Births and Deaths and Marriages under the Special Marriages Act, Indian Marriages Act, Hindu Marriage Act and Society's Registration Act. They have the powers of the district Collectors under certain sections of the Stamp Act. They are also performing certain statutory functions under the Indian Registration Act 1908. In the absence

of a District Registrar, the Joint Registrar-I performs the statutory functions of the District Registrar.

The Sub-Registrars are the heads of offices of the Sub-Registry. They perform statutory functions under the Indian Registration Act, like the registration of documents, grant of encumbrance certificates and certified copies of registered documents and attestation of Power of Attorney.

They solemnize marriages under the Special Marriage Act and register marriages under the Hindu Marriages Act. Chits are also registered by the Sub-Registrars. They have the powers of the district Collectors under section 41 and 42 of the Indian Stamp Act, under which they receive stamp duty in respect of certain documents and add certificates to that effect. In some stations, they are also Rain Registering Officers of the Rain Gauge Stations and Double Lock Officers of certain sub treasuries. In some stations, Sub- Registrars also Act as Sub-Jail Superintendents.

Kanniyakumari district forms part of Tirunelveli region, which is headed by an Inspector of Registration. Kanniyakumari Revenue district consists of two registration districts, viz. (i) Kanniyakumari Registration district, and (ii) the Marthandam Registration fistrict. The headquarters of the former is Nagercoil and latter is Kuzhithurai.

The Kanniyakumari Registration district consists of 12 Sub- Registry Offices, while the Marthandam Registration district has 9 Sub-Registry offices. The head of the Registration district is the District Registrar. He is having administrative control over the Sub-Registry Offices functioning in his Jurisdiction.[22]

Rehabilitation Department

The Director of Rehabilitation, Madras, is looking after the welfare of the Burma and Srilanka repatriates and rehabilitating them.

In Kanniyakumari district, the repatriates from Burma and Srilanka are very limited in number. In as much as there are rubber plantations and dense forests in all parts of the district, most of the repatriates preferred job opportunities in plantation and forest areas, to do business by applying business loans. The District Forest Officer, Kanniyakumari district has rehabilitated most of them in rubber plantations. There is a separate school run in Kanniyakumari district to educate the children of the repatriates.

Social Welfare Department

The deep concern of this Government for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society is well known and the activities of the Social Welfare department, the programmes of which are service oriented particularly for poor and downtrodden and also those below poverty line besides destitutes, widows, children and physically handicapped and the old age pensioners, cannot be forgotten.

The department of Social Welfare is headed by the Director of Social Welfare, who is assisted by an Additional Director and a Joint Director, five Deputy Directors, 14 Assistant Directors, a Secretary for the State Board for the Physically Handicapped, Assistant Accounts Officer, Special Officer for Guidance Bureau, Accounts Officers, one Regional Rehabilitation Officer, Placement Officers, Superintendents of Service Homes, and Medical Officers for Integrated Child Development Services.

The District Social Welfare Officer Kanniyakumari district at Nagercoil, is in-charge of most of the developmental programmes. Under the control of the District Social welfare Officer, an Assistant District Social Welfare Officer, Extension Officer (Social Welfare) at block level, Rural Welfare Officer (Women) Child welfare Organisers (Nutritious Noon Meal Programme) (village level) are working. The staff of the orphanages for children, working women hostels, special schools for blind, deaf and dumb, and Instructors (working centres) also come under the administrative control of the District Social Welfare Officer. In the administrative side, the District Social Welfare Officer is assisted by ministerial staff consisting of Superintendent, Accountant, Assistant, Junior Assistants, and typists. For greater details the chapter XVII "Other Social Services" of this Gazetteer may be referred.

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation : The Government of Tamil Nadu have re-introduced monopoly procurement of paddy in entire Thanjavur district, Trichy, Kulitalai, Musiri, Lalgudy, Udayarpalayam and Ariyalur taluks of Tiruchi district and a part of South Arcot and Pudukottai district. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation in its capacity as a government agency, procures surplus paddy from farmers at procurement rate fixed by Government. This rate varies from time to time depending upon the cost of cultivation of farmers. The Corporation has opened Direct Purchase Centres, in various places of these four districts, where monopoly procurement has been introduced. They procure paddy from farmers through the Direct Purchase Centres. In places in which

monopoly procurement has been introduced, the wholesalers are prohibited from purchasing paddy direct from farmers. They can procure paddy from farmers only in non-monopoly areas, that too at the procurement fixed by the government. It is incumbent on their part to pay 50 per cent of the stock of paddy so procured to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, at procurement price, as levy since the government have introduced 50 per cent Trader's Levy System in the non-monopoly areas, where Trader's Levy System is in vogue. Those who deal exculsively in paddy can tender levy in terms of paddy. Others who deal in paddy and rice and who are miller-cum-whole salers should neccessarily tender, 50 per cent traders levy only in terms of rice at procurement price. If the TNCSC brings to the notice of the Collector/District Supply Officer the malpractice or violation of rules in this regard, the wholesaler is liable for criminal action, besides cancellation of his licence.

These wholesalers are also appointed as hulling agents by the Senior Regional Managers on certain terms and conditions fixed by the TNCSC and they are allotted the paddy procurement by the Corporation for hulling. They are fairly paid for the paddy hulled by them.

All the essential commodities are supplied by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to the Co-operatives in Madras city and districts on their remitting the cost for essential commodities for distribution of the same to the Fair Price Shops under their respective control. The Fair Price Shops in turn distribute the essential commodities to the family card holders attached to their respective shops according of the scale of supply fixed by the Government. Besides, the TNCSC also supplies essential commodities for the various welfare schemes sponsored by the Government such as Chief Ministers Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. Police and Fire Service Personnel Welfare Programme, free eye camp N.C.C. and N.S.S. camps etc. Sixteen modern rice mills are functioning under the control of the TNCSC, of which 8 are functioning in Thanjavur district.

The registered office of this Corporation is at Madras. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, who is the Chief Executive is assisted by a Joint Managing Director with four General Managers, Financial Advisor, Chief Accounts Officer, Construction Engineer, a Company Secretary, five Senior Managers (Law, Labour, Business, Transport and Audit) and a Vigilence Officer.

Though the Corporation commenced functioning in July 1972 the Regional Offices were formed only in March 1973 at Madras, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore. On account of the increase in the transactions more regions were formed during 1974-75 and 1975-76. At present there are 20 regions functioning in the State under the control of a Senior Regional Manager in the cadre of District Revenue Officer or Regional Manager in the cadre of Deputy Collector. The regional heads are empowered to look after the service matters of the employees, also as per the delegation of powers, vested with them and settle them in accordance with the rules.

So far as disciplinary cases are concerned, the disciplinary rules applicable to government servants are followed in respect of Corporation employees also.

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation is having a separate region for Kanniyakumari district with headquarters at Nagercoil. The Region headed by a Senior Regional Manager in the cadre of District Reveneue Officer and he is assisted by a Deputy Senior Regional Manager.

The activities of the region mainly consist of storage and distribution with some hulling agents for processing paddy. There are 5 godowns under thier control for stocking essential commodities. Previously the TNCSC was running 88 Fair Price Shops in the district and distributing the essential commodities, through these shops to the family card holders all these shops have now come under the administrative control of the Cooperatives with effect from 1 October 1987.[23] So, no fair price shop is now run by the TNCSC. But, the TNCSC however, is stocking the essential commodities in their godowns and supplying them on wholesale basis to the cooperatives, with reference to the indents passed by the Taluk Supply Officers.

There are five main godowns in this district located in the following places. Their storage capacity is noted against each :

Name of Godown	Location	Storage Capacity
Konam -I	Industrial Estate konam, Nagercoil	4500 metris tonne
Konam -II	-do-	3000 mts.

Colachel	Marketing Committee, Monday Market	1700 mts.
Kappukadu-I	Thengapattinam, Kappukadu	2000 mts.
Kappukadu-II	-do-	4550 mts.

The Superintendents are in-charge of the godowns. Their main duty is to receive the stock and issue to the Cooperative Societies. At present there are 19 private leading millers appointed as hulling agents in the district on certain terms and conditions. The raw paddy received from Thanjavur district is stored in the Single Lock Godowns located within the mill premises. The Single Lock Officers are incharge of Single Lock Godowns. Levy deposit is received from the dealers only in the shape of rice at Konam II godown. There are 6 Amudham departmental stores now functioning in the district in the following places.

(i) Nagercoil, (ii) Ponnappan nagar,
(iii) Kanniyakumari, (iv) Kottaram,
(v) Thuckalay, and (vi) Kulasekaram.

All items of groceries, beverages, cosmetics and baby foods are sold to the public besides, rice, wheat, maida and sooji at competitive prices. The total turn over for all six Amudham stores is nearly Rs. 6 lakh.

Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has seven members. The Chairman, Accounts Member, Member (Generation) and Member (Distribution) are full time members. Commissioner and Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department, Finance and Industries Departments are other members of the Board. The State is divided into five Regions for transmission and distribution of electricity and each region is headed by a Chief Engineer (Distribution). Kanniyakumari district is under the control of Chief Engineer (Distribution) stationed at Madurai.[24]

The Kanniyakumari Electricity Distribution Circle is headed by a Superintending Engineer with headquarters at Nagercoil. He is assisted by Electrical Engineer (General) in all technical and administrative matters. The Assistant Executive Engineers, (General) Materials Management, Development MRT.–cum–Special Maintenance and Civil

Assistant Executive Engineer (General) in all technical matters and a Personal Assistant assist in all administrative matters.

In this district there are three Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Divisions, each headed by an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai. These Executive Engineers are responsible for the proper maintenance of power supply to the consumers in their respective areas. One construction-cum-commercial division headed by an Executive Engineer is also functioning, which looks after the construction works for extension of supply to new consumers in the district.

There are five revenue units, two at Nagercoil, one at Thuckalay and two at Kuzhithurai which are responsible for collection and accounting of revenue. All the existing 5 towns, 66 villages, 2490 hamlets and 371 Adi-dravidar colonies (as per 1971 Census) in the district have already been electrified. Power to 2850 agricultural pumpsets and 2932 huts have been extended in the district as on 31 March 1988.

Tamil Nadu Housing Board

Housing ranks among the major problems in a developing country. In order to cater to the needs of growing population with provisions of house sites the City Improvement Trust was formed during 1947 and it was functioning in a moderate scale, due to financial constraints. The increasing housing problem in the city as well as in the districts called for a bigger body and hence the Tamil Nadu Housing Board was constituted in the year 1961 with powers to raise funds for housing Improvement Schemes, contemplated under the Act. The Board has taken up various Social Housing Schemes in a massive scale and has so far provided 1,65,911 dwelling units throughout the State. The capital expenditure of the Board is increased from Rs.6 crore in 1978 to Rs.98 crore in 1988-89.[25]

The TNHB is striving hard to provide more houses for the economically weaker sections to keep tract with the policy of the Government. At present, the Board constructs houses for economically weaker sections, low income groups, middle income groups and higher income groups. To fulfil the various social housing schemes and to implement those schemes successfully, the Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) New Delhi also finances the TNHB.

Tamil Nadu Housing Board is a government sponsored statutory authority for all housing activities in the State. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director heads the administration of the Board and the Chief Technical Officer is the Chief Engineer, who is responsible for all technical matters. The TNHB has under its control 6 circles, divisions in city and units at Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Madurai, Hosur, Vellore, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram.

The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, is assisted by three Chief Engineers, one for City and Chengalpattu (Planning and Administration), the other for Salem and Madurai, and the remaining Officer for implementation of Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme. Besides these technical officers, Secretary and Personnel Officer, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer also assist him in the administration. There are six Superintending Engineers, each incharge of Anna Nagar and KK Nager at Madras and Chengalpattu, Madurai and Salem. There are also senior Town Planner, Town Planner, Assistant Town Planner, Assistant Architect and other staff at headquarters. The supporting staff of the Superintending Engineers are Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Drawing Branch Managers and their staff members.

The Superintending Engineer, Madurai is having administrative control over Tirunelveli Housing Unit which is headed by an Executive Engineer-cum-Administrative Officer. The Executive Engineer, Tirunelveli Housing Unit, executes the vaious housing schemes relating to Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts. The Executive Engineer is assisted by an Assistant Executive Engineer (Nagercoil), an Assistant Engineer and a Junior Engineer. The Executive Engineer is the Inspection officer, as well as authority incharge of payment of bills. The Assistant Executive Engineer supervises the execution of new works and maintenance of existing works. The Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers are also incharge of execution and maintenance works.

Under the scheme of economically weaker sections, the Housing Unit has constructed 64 houses at Nagercoil upto June 1986. Under the Tamil Nadu Government Rental Housing Scheme, as much as 78 and 36 houses were constructed at Nagercoil and Thuckalay respectively. The unit has also completed the construction work of 30 houses for Judicial and Revenue Officials at various places in the district in the recent past.

Tamil Nadu State Warehousing Corporation

The Tamil Nadu State Warehousing Corporation was established in Public Sector by an Act of Parliament in 1957 and commenced functioning in Tamil Nadu from 4 December 1957. Under warehouse activities seeds, manures, fertilizers, agricultural implements and notified commodities of individuals, co-operative and other similar institutions are stored in Government warehouses at economic rates of interest on security of the produce.

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation a protector of national wealth and a trusted name for providing scientific storage facilities for all commodities to minimise losses and deterioration in quality due to rodents, pests, moisture and vagaries of weather. The regulated warehousing programmes have created the long felt awareness among all levels that scientific storage can eliminate avoidable losses in the stupendous task of overall production. The network of warehouses, all over the State plays the role of demonstration centres in promoting orderly grading and marketing of the produces.

This Corporation is functioning under the control of a Managing Director, who is assisted by a General Manager, Secretary to Board, Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Construction Engineer, Public Relations Officer and Managers.

A warehouse of this Corporation was set up at Nagercoil on 1 October 1977, which has at present a storage capacity of 1140 metric tonnes. This unit is incharge of a Warehouse Manager, with supporting staff. The Manager is the chief custodian of the stocks, wastages and losses in storage is reduced to the minimum extent in the ware house by the introduction of grading system and specifying the quality and standards in the warehouse receipts. The stocks stored in the ware house are insured against fire, flood, cyclone, inundation and burglaries.

The ware house provides credit facilities through commercial banks for the benefit of producers. Services like Disinfestation, Extension Scheme for stocks owned by farmers and traders in their premises, distribution as well as handling and transport which are incidental activities to storage are also undertaken by the Corporation.[26]

Wakf Board

Term "Wakf" means permanent dedication of any movable or immovable properties for religious, pious and chartiable purposes, recognised by Muslim law.

The Tamil Nadu Wakf Board under Section 15 of Wakf Act, 1954, excercises its powers to ensure that the wakfs under its superintendence are promptly maintained, controlled and administered and the income derived there of is spent in prescribed proportion to the objects and the purposes or which such wakfs are created or intended. Under the Wakfs Act, 1954, a Board consisting of eleven members has been constituted by the Government for the administration of wakfs properties in this State. The Chairman of the Board is elected by the members from among themselves. The Secretary to the Board, generally a Deputy Collector, especially belonging to Muslim community who is conversant with the identification and proper management of wakf properties, is appointed by Government in consultation with the Board.[27]

In the interest of administration, the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board has created eight zones viz., Northern zone at Madras, Vellore zone at Vellore, Western zone at Salem, Ramanathapuram zone at Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore zone at Mettuppalayam, Central zone at Tiruchirappalli, Southern zone at Madurai and Tirunelveli zone at Tirunelveli. Each zone is headed by a Superintendent of wakfs.

The Wakfs institutions which are situated in Kanniyakumari district come under the control of Superintendent of Wakfs, Tirunelveli zone, whose duties are collection of contributions payable by the wakfs, auditing of their accounts, inspection of wakf properties, enquiries into complaints of mismanagements, etc. He represents the Wakf Board in suits, which come up before judicial courts. Under the control of the Superintendent of wakfs, Tirunelveli there is a Wakf Inspector, exclusively to looks after the affairs of Kanniyakumari district, whose headquarters is at Nagercoil.

There are 141 wakf institutions in Kanniyakumari district, of which the following are the biggest and prominent institutions :

(i) Hazarath Fazil Shah Avulia Thaika – Kottar

(ii) Malick Dinar Baithulmal – Kottar

(iii) Ilangadai Muslim Samudhaya Trust	–	Nagercoil
(iv) Muslim Mohallam	–	Colachel
(v) Anjuvanam Peer Mohammadia Muslim Association	–	Thuckalay

Loans are also granted by the government to eligible wakf institutions for the development of their urban properties, for which the government places a lumpsum for specific remunerative schemes. The Central Wakf Council is also granting similar loans. Under these schemes, loans are sanctioned by Tamil Nadu Government and Central Wakf Council under Urban Land Development Scheme, through Tamil Nadu Wakf Board. The maximum loan amount that may be granted to any institution is Rs.1.5 lakh. Such loans are granted only for new construction of buildings of a permanent nature such as shops, lodgings, shandi khanas, and the like for the purpose of augmenting the resources of the wakf institution.

The Wakf Board constitutes a Development Committee for each loan sanctioned for the general superintendence and proper execution of the work. The committee consists of a number of members nominated by the Board. The Superintendent of wakfs having jurisdiction over the wakfs institution, and the Mutha Vallis of the wakf institution concerned or the President of the Jamath and as the case may be. The following institutions in Kanniyakumari district have been sanctioned loans for the development of their urban properties.

(i) Seikh Noordeen Muslim Mohallan, Thiruvithancode	–	(Rs1.5 lakh)
(ii) Mohaideen Andagai Muslim - Jamath - South Soorankudi in Agasthiswaram taluk	–	(Rs.23000/-)
(iii) Islamic Cultural Association Agasthiswaram	–	(Rs.1.20 lakh)
(iv) Muslim Samudhaya Trust - Ilangadai - Kottar	–	(Rs.9.25 lakh)

The income of the wakfs is utilised for the welfare of the poor muslims and for the betterment of the Muslim community by giving scholarships and dresses to the poor muslim students, and giving financial aid to the poor muslim women (from the funds of the wakf called Mallick Dinar Beithul Mal, Kottar).

For the renovation and repairs of the wakf buildings, renovation grants ranging from Rs.5000/- to 15000/- have been sanctioned under Crash Programme of the Government of Tamil Nadu through the Wakf Board. Many wakf institutions in Kanniyakumari district have been benefited by this scheme. Tamil Nadu Wakf Board has created a fund called "Welfare Fund" from donations received from the public for providing financial assistance to poor and down trodden.

Tamil Nadu Water Supply And Drainage Board

The Government of Tamil Nadu constituted the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board) during 1971 to investigate and execute water supply and sewerage schemes in Tamil Nadu, except Madras Metropolitan area.[28]

At State level, the TWAD is headed by a non-official Chairman and seven Board of Directors including the Managing Director. The Managing Director is the administrative head with Engineering Director, Finance Director at Head Office and other technical and non-technical officers all over the State to assist him in the planning and implementation of Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes for urban as well as rural areas all over Tamil Nadu, except the Madras Metropolitan area.

In the State, there are 753 towns (excluding Madras Corporation) covering two Corporations. 98 Municipalities, 8 Municipal Townships, 17 Panchayat Townships and 628 Town Panchayats with a total population of 165 lakhs as per 1981 Census. Out of 753 towns, 336 towns have been provided with water supply schemes. Also, 40 Water Supply Improvements Schemes are under execution.

Besides water supply schemes, underground sewerage facilities have been provided in sixteen towns and they are under execution in four towns. In addition, low cost sanitation schemes are under execution in fourteen towns with World Bank assistance.

Out of 64083 rural habitations, as per the survey conducted in 1985, only 16085 habitations are without water supply as on 1 April 1985 and another 27,356 habitations have been partially covered. It has been proposed to cover 10,900 habitations during the Seventh Five Year Plan Period for which funds are allocated by State Government under Minimum Needs Programme and by Government of India under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

Besides, water supply schemes are being executed under Drought Relief works, European Economic Community Project, World Bank Project, and under Technology Mission also.

In Kanniyakumari district the rural water supply schemes are being executed by the Executive Engineers with headquarters at Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai, Thuckalay and Kulasekaram and for the urban water supply scheme an Assistant Executive Engineer at Nagercoil under the control of Urban Division at Tirunelveli. These divisions are under the control of the Chief Engineer, Southern Region at Madurai.

The Board has to undertake rural water supply schemes in 120 habitations in the district addition to a combined water supply scheme benefiting one Municiplaity, eight Town Panchayats and eleven wayside villages with Kuzhithuraiyar as source, at a cost of Rs.400 lakh. Under Drought Relief Works, 549 borewells have been provided up to 1987, in addition to compensatory bore wells with in the places where there was need for water supply, as identified by the Collector, Nagercoil.

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CHAPTER – 14

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The Panchayats have for centuries past formed an integral part of Village Administration in our Country. In South India, especially in Tamil Nadu, the Panchayats had their roots in the past and as evident from the historical records, inscriptions and monuments, they played a vital role in the integration and development of village life.

Local Self Government in the Ancient Period : The present Kanniyakumari district had been under the sceptres of the Ayis, the Pandyas, the Cholas, the Nayaks and the Venad rulers. The monarchy was replaced in the district by democracy, after Independence.

There are inscriptional evidences to say that there were village Sabhas during the Ayi's rule in the district. The functions of the sabhas were mostly restricted to temple administration.

There are also references in Palliam Copper plates and the Parthivapuram plates, about a sabha at Munchirai, (Vilavankodu taluk) which exercised judicial powers under the supervision of the Crown.

Huzur office plates refer to the purchase of certain land from the Sabha of Munchirai by an Ayi king, Karunandatakkan, to build a temple for Lord Vishnu, at Parthivapuram.

The Sangam Literature mentions about Manram and Podhiyil and according to K.A.N. Sastri they refer to the Village Assemblies existed then.[1]

The 'Maha sabhas' were the Village Assemblies existed in the Brahmadeya villages. In the middle of the 10th Century, Suchindram, a village in the district, an abode of Lord Shiva, was a Brahmadeya village which had a Maha sabha. K.K.Pillay the author of the Suchindram Temple says that this Mahasabha wielded enormous administrative powers.[2]

There are clear and unmistakable traces of the existence and the active functioning of sabha in villages in Rig Vedic India.

The essential duty of the Sabha was to administer justice. It is worth noting that almost every inscription in South India which mentions a Village Assembly also makes reference to a Madyastha of the village, and the administration of justice formed one of the principal duties of the Assembly. It would thus appear that the Village Assembly of later historical times in South India was, far from being the result of a single line of development, northern or southern, the complex product of the interaction of both southern and northern, Tamil and Sanskrit, influences.

Local Self Government Under the Cholas : In the history of the Local Self Government of Tamil Nadu, the Chola rule has been engraved on the golden leaves with diamond style. The most striking feature of the Chola period 850 AD to 1173 AD was the functioning of the autonomous rural institutions with vigour and efficiency.[3] A highly developed committee system (Variyams) for the administration of local affairs was evolved and the Sabha of Uttiramerur, which revised its constitutional arrangements twice at short intervals in the reign of Parantaka I, is the typical example of a number of similar attempts going on everywhere to evolve improved methods of administration.

This sketch of administration in its detail has had particular reference to the Chola empire, but the conditions elsewhere in South India were *generally similar,* though the administrative terms differed in the different kingdoms. [4]

Raja Raja the Great, brought Nanjilnadu, - the area now Kanniyakumari district, - under the Chola rule and it continued under the Cholas until the rule of Kulotunga I. Hence the distinctive feature of the Chola Administration, the autonomous villages, prevailed there also.

The method of election for the local self governing bodies under the Cholas was known as 'Kudavolai Murai' or pot ticket system. According to this system, the names of the contesting candidates would be written on palmyra leaves, put in a pot, shuffled and a child would be asked to take out as many leaves as the total number of candidates needed to be elected. [5] The candidates whose names were written on the leaves taken out by the child, would be declared elected.

The members thus elected would constitute themselves into various 'variams' or committees such as Eri Variam or Lake Committee. Thottavariam or Garden-Committee, Pon Variam or Golden Committee etc. and the

members would discharge their respective function. The duration of the membership was one year. A big banyan tree in the village or the village Mandaba served as the office.

The account books of the Panchayats were maintained by an officer designated as 'Karanathan'. This post was filled with meticulous care. The persons chosen for this job were of sterling character. They presented the accounts in the Panchayat meetings. If the members doubted the genuineness of the account, the 'Karanathan' had to read out the account holding a hot iron bar and it was the belief that there would be blisters in his hands, if he muddled with the accounts. Thus, the Panchayats in ancient days proved efficient units of village administration, attending to all the civic amenities of the villages and also administered justice impartially.

After the Chola's rule, the Pandyas of the Second Empire, and after them the Nayaks ruled this part of Tamil Nadu. During this period also, the local self governing institutions were encouraged and allowed to exist, though there were slight changes in the mode of election, duration of office, designation of the officers, etc.

After the Nayak's rule, the area of the present district of Kanniyakumari, then known as Nanjil Nadu and Edanadu went into the folds of the Venad rulers and continued under their rule up to 1st September 1949, - when the erstwhile Travancore State was merged with the Indian Union.

About the Local Self governing institutions in Nanjil Nadu during the earlier period of Venad Kings, K.K. Pillay writes as follows:-

> "In Nanjil Nadu and Venad, during the 12th and 13th centuries, as indeed for long time later, the local assemblies and temple sabhas were virile institutions; and the day-to-day affairs were managed by them. The Inscriptions at Vellayini of 1196 A.D., another at Trivandrum of 1209 A.D., and yet another at Manalikkara of 1235 A.D., all indicate that the local affairs were under the purview of the assemblies."[6]

Prof. P. Sundaram Pillay is of the opinion, that these sabhas (or village assemblies) were not mere occasional assemblies of the inhabitants of Nanjilnadu and they were permanent and well constituted public bodies that acted as buffers between the people and the Government.[7]

Keralotpatti a Malayalam literature mentions about three types of Assemblies (*i.e.*) Tarakuttam, Nattukuttam and Perumkuttam, flourished in Kerala from time to time for many centuries till recent past.[8] Among these, Tarakuttam was a village assembly, Nattukuttam was the Assembly containing representatives of villages while Perumkuttam was the National Assembly represented by the whole country.

There are ample evidences that in 1703 A.D Nanjilnadu, then a portion of Kerala and now forming part of Kanniyakumari District, had such Assemblies and the 'Nattars' the members of the Assemblies assembled on various occasions at Vadaseri Asramam (near Nagercoil) and Esanthimangalam and passed resolutions against some of the oppressive Government legislations.

When Madras Presidency was formed as the result of the take over of the administration of British East India Company, the local self governing institutions were not encouraged. But, Nanjilnadu was under the erstwhile Travancore State, where there was monarchy and so, the local self governing institutions were not discouraged, though not encouraged with fresh measures. In course of time, the British administration began to realise the importance of the Local Self Government and consequently, legislations in this regard made headway.

The History of the Modern Local Self Government in Kanniyakumari district.

Ripon's Resolutions on Local Self Government : Lord Ripon, who is rightly called the father of Local Self Government in India, passed two Resolutions on Local Self Government, one in 1881 and the other in 1882 in his capacity as the Governor General of India (1880-84).[8(A)] His Resolutions on Local Self Government are great landmarks in the growth of the Local Self Government in the country.

The Resolution in 1881 stated that it had come to initiate measures to develop the idea of local self government. Accordingly, the provincial Governments were directed by the Governor General of India to transfer considerable revenues to the local bodies. The latter were also to be in charge of those matters, which were chiefly concerned with the localities.

The Government of India directed the provincial Governments to take a carefui survey of the provincial, local and Municipal Acts. The object of the inquiry was to find out as to what sources of revenue could be

transferred from the provincial to the local heads, so that they could be administered by the Municipal Committees. Secondly, it had to be found out as what items could safely be given away to the local bodies. The third object of the inquiry was to devise steps that were, "necessary to ensure more Local Self Government."

The provincial Governments conducted the inquiry as the directions of the Governor General and submitted Reports. The Reports were analysed and the offshoot was the passing of the famous Resolution of 1882 by Lord Ripon. In this Resolution of 1882, Lord Ripon evinced real interest and took special pains to make it clear that the expansion of system of Local Self Government would not bring about a change for the better, from the point of view of efficiency in Municipal administration. To quote him, "It is not primarily with a view to improvement in administration that this measure is put forward and supported. It is chiefly desirable as an instrument of political and popular education." The Governor General was of the opinion that when after some time more local knowledge was acquired and more local interest was created, improved efficiency would in fact follow. But there were bound to be initial failures in the new field. If the Government officials encouraged and supported the growth of local bodies, it was hoped that the period of failure would end very soon and substantial progress would be made. The Local Governments were directed by the Resolution to maintain and extend a net work of Local Boards in every district. The area of jurisdiction of every Local Board was to be so small that both local knowledge and local interest on the part of members of the Board could be secured. The number of non-official members were to be large and the official element was not to exceed one third of the whole. Thus, importance was attached to non-official members so that their involvement should be there in administering local boards. Wherever practicable, the Local Government were to introduce the system of election for the members of the Local Boards.

With regard to the provinicial Governments control on the Local Boards, it is said that the "true principle" to be observed in this matter was that, "the control should be exercised from without rather than from within". The Government should "revise and check the acts of local bodies but not dictate them". The number of the cases, where sanction was required, was to be large at the beginning but the same was to be reduced later on. The Government were to be given authority to set aside altogether the proceedings of the Local Boards or to suspend them temporarily in the case of crisis and continued neglect of duty. The power

of absolute suppression was to be exercised only with the consent of the Government of India. To quote him, "It should be the general function of the executive officers of Government to watch especially at the outset, the proceedings of the Local Boards, to point out to them matters calling for their consideration, to draw their attention to any neglect of duty on their part and to check by official remonstrance any attempt to exceed their proper function or to act illegally or in any arbitrary or unreasonble manner".

This Resolution and its aftermath in the British administration had its echoes in the Native States also. In Travancore Government, the earliest legislation in this regard was the Regulation II of 1894 which had provisions to constitute Town Improvement Committees. The Committees thus set up were vested with certain powers to improve the conservancy and sanitation of the respective towns.

Accordingly, five such Town Improvement Committees were set up in the State and one was at *Nagercoil*. The committee consisted of Local officials and non-officials. As per the Regulations, a fund, known as the 'Town Improvement Committee Fund' was created. The duties of the Committees were confined to the supervision of the sanitary arrangements alone in the town. Later, the scope was widened and the Committees were entrusted with the maintenance of public wells, public conveniences, street lights, provision of roads, etc. In the years followed, duties such as provision of private scavenging, traffic regulations, provisions of public health, etc., also were assigned to the Town Improvement Committees. The Committees were also authorised to levy and collect certain local taxes such as house tax, vehicle tax, etc.[9]

In the year 1913, the towns of *Colachel* and *Padmanabhapuram* were also provided with Town Improvement Committees. One of the prime functions of these committees was specified as the prevention of epidemics. The Presidents of the committees were vested with powers of inspecting and controlling the manufacture of food materials. The supervision of the cattle pounds also was brought under the control of the committees.

In the year 1914, a Town Improvement Committee was set up in Kuzhithurai, which brought the total number of such committees in the area into four.

In the year 1920, the Municipal Act of Travancore State was passed which marks an important epoch in the history of the Local Self Government of Kanniyakumari district. The Act was drafted on lines with the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, the City of Madras Municipality Act, 1884 and the Punjab Municipalities Act, 1891.[10] This Act made better provisions for the organisation and administration of Municipal towns.[11] Arrangements were also made for providing better educational, public health and other facilities to the public. The maximum and minimum number of official and non-official members in the Municipal Committees, and the obligatory and discretionary powers of the Committees were defined in the Act. According to the provisions of the Act, maintenance of roads in the Municipal area, street lighting, public health including cleaning of streets, registration of births and deaths, educational activities, public parks and recreation centres, etc. came under the purview of the Municipalities.

As per this Act, four Municipalities (i.e.). *Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram, Kuzhithurai* and *Colachel* were constituted in the area. In other words, the former Town Improvement Committees were reconstituted as Municipalities by the Act. In 1946, the official heads of the Municipalities designated as Commissioners - were appointed.[12]

Panchayats : Keen interest was also evinced by the then Travancore Government to involve the rural people in Local Self Government. The first piece of Legislation in regard to this, was enacted in the year 1935, by passing Travancore Village Panchayat Act.

The immediate result of the Act was the formation of two rural panchayats, one at *Bhoothapandi,* - a taluk headquarters in the present Kanniyakumari district. According to the provisions of the Act, the Government had powers to declare any village or a cluster of villages as a village panchayat, consisting of not less than five and not more than 11 members. The obligatory and discretionary powers of the panchayats were quite identical to that of the Municipalities. The Act laid particular stress on the principle that all the matching grants extended by the Government to a village panchayat, together with the local taxes levied and collected from the people were to be spent by the village panchayat itself for the benefit of the village.[13]

Further development in the history of the Local Self Government was, the Travancore Village Union Act, 1940. This Act had provisions for the

formation of Village Unions, – a type of Local Self Governing Organisations, slightly less powerful than Village Panchayats. They had the status of the corporate bodies and had perpetual succession and a common seal. They could sue and be sued, in their corporate name. They could also acquire, hold, and transfer property and enter into contract. The term office of a member was fixed for 3 years. A few years after the passing of the Act, these local bodies were brought under the control of the Registrar of Village Unions and Panchayats.[14]

These Village Unions attended to certain public utility services such as cleaning of streets, constructions, maintenance and improvement of public wells and tanks for the supply of drinking water, opening of burial and burning ghats, control and management of the cattle pounds and other items of local importance.

The first major Legislation after Independence, with regard to the Panchayat was the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act, 1950. The first Panchayat election was held in the district on 15 August 1953.[15]

After Merger : Even after the carving of the Kanniyakumari district out of the territories transferred to the then Madras State from the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State in 1956, the administrative set up of the Local bodies then in existence, were allowed to continue until 31st March 1962. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1958 was extended to the Kanniyakumari district with effect from 1 April 1962.[16]

In the Panchayat Administrative System prevailed prior to the extension of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 to Kanniyakumari district, every Panchayat was having a full time Panchayat Officer. But, as per the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1958, only Executive Officers of the Panchayats, in their capacity as Executive Authorities, can implement the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1958. But, as per this Act, Town Panchayats alone are manned by Executive Officers. Hence this problem was solved by upgrading all the Panchayats in the district as full fledged Town Panchayats and the Panchayat Officers were redesignated as Executive Officers.

Nine Panchayat Unions (i.e.,) Rajakkamangalam, Agasthiswaram, Munchirai, Melpuram, Killiyoor, Thalakulam (later became Kurunthancode), Thuckalai, Thovalai and Tiruvattar, were inaugurated in the district, on 1 April 1962.[17]

MUNICIPALITIES

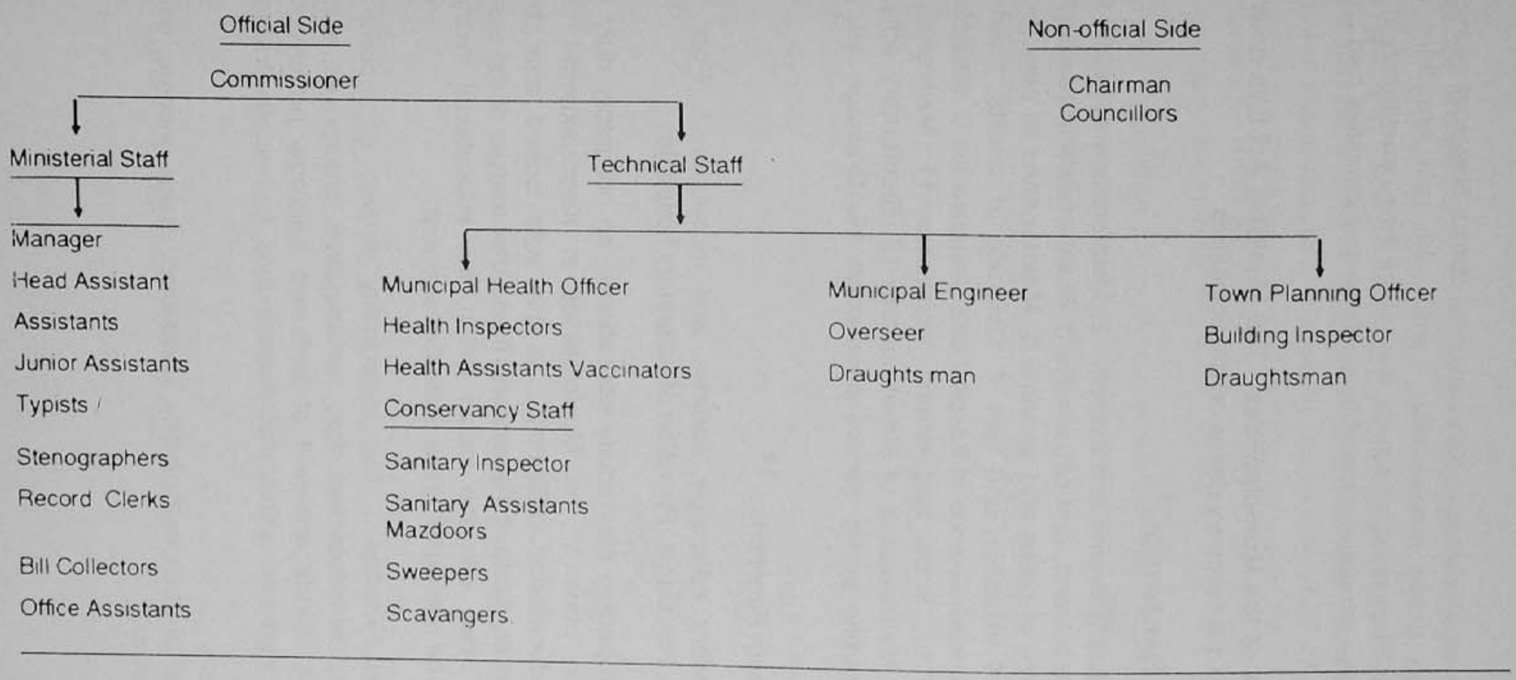
Administration : Prior to the year 1965, all local self governing bodies in the State, were functioning under one head of the department. The designation of the head of the department was often changed. Initially, it was Inspector Of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, and it existed till 1962. In 1962, the post was re-designated as Additional Development Commissioner. Again in 1964, the nomenclature was changed as Joint Development Commissioner. In the year 1965, the administrative set up of local bodies was bifurcated. For municipalities, the controlling officer at the State level was Chief Electoral Officer and for Panchayats, the head of the department was the Director of Rural Development.[17(A)] In the year 1967, the designation of the Head of the Department of Municipalities was changed into Inspector of Municipalities and in 1970, the post was re-designated as Director of Municipal Administration.[17B]

District Level Control : At the district level, the Collector is the supreme authority to control the local bodies. In addition, there are also regional level Departmental Officers to control them.

Besides the Director at the State level, there are Regional Directors to administer the municipalities. At the regional level, the municipalities in Kanniyakumari district are under the control of the Regional Director of municipalities, Tirunelveli. The municipality is headed by the Commissioner in the official side and the Chairman and his Council in the non-official side. The following diagram shows the organisational set up of a municipality.

Classification of Municipalities : The municipalities in the State have been classified into various grades, taking into account of their annual income and the income limit for the purpose of classification, has been prescribed in G.O.Ms.No.400, R.D.&.L.A., dated 23 March 1983. If the annual income of a municipality is above rupees 100 lakh, it can claim to be declared as a special grade municipality. If the annual income crosses rupees 50 lakh, the status of the municipality is classified as selection grade. The first grade municipality should have an annual income of more than rupees 25 lakh. If the annual income of a municipality is more than rupees 10 lakh, it is classified as second grade municipality. Ordinarily, municipalities are constituted from selection grade town panchayats. The municipality thus constituted initially, is classed as third grade municipality.

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF MUNICIPALITIES



Of the four municipalities in Kanniyakumari district, Nagercoil municipality is a selection grade municipality, - while the rest are third grade municipalities. They remain as such, ever since their constitution in 1920, even though the annual income of these three municipalities had crossed Rs.10 lakhs.

Functions of the Municipalities : The Municipal Act lays down both obligatory and discretionary duties on municipalities.

(i) Obligatory Functions :- [18]

1. Relief during famine and scarcity 2. Maintenance of public roads, streets, lanes, culverts, and causeways 3. Maintenance of reading room 4. Maintenance of parks and gardens 5. Maintenance of play grounds 6. Conduct of exhibition and fairs 7. Cleaning of streets, drains and scavenging 8. Maintenance of hospital and dispensaries 9. Maintenance of endemics 10. Births and deaths registration 11. Maintenance of avenues 12. Maintenance of street lighting 13. Elementary education 14. Water supply, public service connection 15. Drainage 16. Town planning

(ii) Discretionary Functions :- [19]

1. Secondary education, libraries and museums 2. Poor home orphanage 3. Housing 4. Provision of veterinary hospitals

Though imparting elementary education is an obligatory duty of the Municipalities, none of the Municipalities in Kanniyakumari district, maintains educational institutions, as this was looked after by the erstwhile princely State of Travancore, then. After merger of the erstwhile Travancore State with the Indian Union, the educational institutions continued to be managed by the State Government.

Municipal Finance : The municipality derives its income from property tax, entertainment tax, remunerative enterprises such as markets, bus stands and rent of land and buildings, profession tax, vehicle tax, cart tax, animal tax, licence fees for various trades and surcharges.

The origin of each municipality, population, status, income, etc., are discussed below.

Nagercoil Municipality :[20] Nagercoil headquarters of the district, has been a Municipal town since 1920. The municipality was upgraded to selection grade in 1978. Its status was further upgraded as special grade with effect from July 1988. It is the biggest municipality in the district. The jurisdiction of this municipality is spread over an area of 24.27 sq.km. The population of the municipal town as per the census of 1981, is 1,71,648 and the present (1988) approximate population is 2,00,000. The normal annual income of the municipality is Rs.195 lakhs.

Financial Condition : The annual income of this municipality during 1921-22 (*i.e.*) the next year of its constitution was Rs.2076 and it rose up to Rs.80,635 in 1961-62 after 40 years.

A table showing the annual income of this Municipality since 1978-79 is given below :-

Year	*Annual Income* (in rupees)
1978-79	64,15,024
1979-80	77,48,494
1980-81	80,22,208
1981-82	85,74,723
1982-83	80,55,026
1983-84	94,72,492
1984-85	1,01,78,973
1985-86	1,19,01,714
1986-87	1,54,31,611
1987-88	1,95,00,000

Water supply : The source of protected water supply to this Municipality is the Mukkudal dam situated 15 km. to the north of the town. The water pumped out of the dam is treated with chlorine or other purifiers in the filter house built in Krishnan koil. Drinking water is supplied on alternate days and the normal supply of water per day is 144 lakh of litres. There are two over head tanks and one booster station here.

In public interest, there are 13,088 domestic and 236 non-domestic water connections in the town. Important public places in the town are provided with water fountains. There are 640 fountains, of which 636 are with double water taps, maintained by this municipality. Besides this protected water supply, 259 bore wells have been sunk in the municipality, of which 90 bore wells were provided under Drought Relief Scheme of 1986 and 1987.

The water charge for the consumption of every 1000 litres for domestic purposes is fifty paise and it is one rupee for the non-domestic purposes, and this is in addition to the meter maintenance charge of twenty five paise per month. The minimum water charges for domestic and non-domestic purposes are rupees four and ten respectively.

Water supply is effected not only to the Nagercoil municipal area but also, to the other towns and villages which are situated along the pipelines from Mukkudal to Nagercoil. The other towns benefited are Boothapandi, Thuvarankadu, Vilangadu, Esanthimangalam, Erachakulam, Putheri, Sucindrum and Kanniyakumari (The Kanniyakumari township has its own water supply schemes, besides the Mukkudal water).

Roads : Since Nagercoil happens to be the headquarters of the district, this municipality maintains a good number of cement, black topped and metalled roads and streets to the total length of 149.8120 km., as detailed below :-

1 . Cement road	–	39.0770	km.
2 . Black topped	–	96.7762	"
3 . Metalled	–	5.9392	"
4 .W.B. Macadan	–	0.0196	"
Total		141.8120	"

The maintenance cost of these roads, comes to Rs.15 lakh annually.

Street lights : The following are the details of the street lights maintained by the municipality :-

1.	Mercury vapour lamp	–	211
2.	Sodium vapour lamp	–	132
3.	Tube lights	–	4048
4.	Focus Lights	–	7
	Total		4398

The charges incurred by the municipality towards maintenance of street lights are about Rs.7 lakh per annum.

Public Health : This municipality maintains an Allopathic hospital, 10 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and a Family Welfare Centre and the maintenance cost works out to Rs.1.10 lakh, Rs.2.75 lakh and Rs.94,000 per annum respectively. The Family Welfare Centre is however, run with full government grant.

The sanitation of the town is looked after by the following staff of the Municipality :-

1. Selection Grade Sanitary Inspector	1
2. Sanitary Inspector	8
3. Sanitary Supervisors	16
4. Sweepers	159
5. Scavengers	119
6. Drain Cleaners	35

These members of the staff are under the administrative control of the Municipal Health Officer.

The municipality maintains 52 public conveniences of which four are 'Pay and Use' category. Three of these four are attached with bath rooms. There are also four septic tank latrines. The income derived from the 'Pay and Use' public conveniences in the year 1987-88, is Rs.1.75 lakh.

There is also a compost yard in the municipality to deposit the trash and the other wastages collected in the streets. Three lorries of this municipality carry the rubbish materials to the yard. The manure from the yard had fetched an income of Rs.1 lakh in the year 1986-87.

Miscellaneous : The Municipality maintains the following remunerative enterprises and the annual income derived for the year 1986-87 is noted against each :-

Name of the enterprise	*Total numbers*	*Annual Income* (in rupees)
Daily and weekly combined markets	3	11,00,000
Shopping complex	1	6,00,000
Slaughter houses	2	12,000
Bus stand	1	1,25,000
Taxi stands	3	10,000
Lorry stand	1	5,000
Kalaiarangam (Auditorium)	1	50,000
Rest house	1	3,20,000

One library and two reading rooms at an annual cost of Rs.50,000, eight parks at an annual cost of Rs.1 lakh and a destitute home at an annual cost of Rs.18,000 are also maintained.

Municipal Elections : The existing Municipal Council and also the Chairman were directly elected by the people on 23 February 1986 as in the case of other municipalities of the State. There are thirty six wards and each ward is represented by a Councillor. Out of the 36 wards, two wards are reserved, one for woman and the other for scheduled castes.

Functions of the Council : 6 urgent meetings, 13 special meetings and 14 ordinary meetings were conducted, during 1986-87 in the municipality and decisions taken on 359 subjects discussed, during these meetings.

Padmanabhapuram Municipality :[21] Padmanabhapuram, where there are vestiges of the Venad kings, was constituted as a municipality in the year 1920 under the Travancore Municipal Act. The Office of the municipality is located at Thuckalai. The municipality has jurisdiction over an area of 6.47 sq.km., which includes portions of Kalkulam and Thuckalai revenue villages. It continues to remain as a third grade

municipality, since its constitution. The population of the municipality as per 1981 census is 18,264 and it was 18,850 (approximately) in 1987.

Financial Condition : In the next year of the constitution of this municipality (*i.e.*) 1921-22, its income was Rs.5,141. In 1961-62, its income rose to Rs.83,359. The income of the municipality from the year 1976-77 to 1985-86, is given below :-

Year	*Income* (in rupees)
1976-77	346080/-
1977-78	436562/-
1978-79	603042/-
1979-80	490819/-
1980-81	528450/-
1981-82	683974/-
1982-83	746281/-
1983-84	1827562/-
1984-85	817791/-
1985-86	1053214/-

Water Supply : Protected water supply system has yet to be introduced in this municipality. There are 44 public wells and 52 deep bore wells in municipal area to cater to the drinking water need of the town. Most of the residents of the town, have their own water facilities.

However, there is a Water Supply Scheme under investigation by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board to bring drinking water to the town, from Kuzhithurai river. An outline proposal has been prepared for Rs.231.10 lakhs which is under finalization of Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board.[21A]

Roads : This municipality maintains black-topped, metalled and earthern roads to the total length of 20.04 km. For the maintenance of these roads, a sum of Rs.23097.56 has been spent during the year 1985-86. The maintenance of these roads is incharge of an Overseer. As this municipality does not have a Municipal Engineer, the Municipal

Engineer, Kuzhithurai is placed in additional charge to supervise the maintenance work.

Street lights : There are 523 tube lights and four mercury vapour lamps erected within the municipal limits. Prior to the year 1980, the street lights were maintained by the municipality, but afterwards they were under the maintenance of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, subject to payment of electricity consumption charges, by the municipality. During the year 1986-87, the municipality has paid Rs.68,854 towards the electricity charges.

Reading Room : This municipality maintains a reading room and it is manned by a librarian, with the assistance of a watchman. The reading room, has a collection of 4483 books in Tamil and English languages. Besides, daily newspapers and other periodical magazines are displayed for the readers. The expenditure incurred by the municipality towards the maintenance of this library, during 1985-86 was Rs.22,539.30.

Public Health : The conservancy staff includes one Sanitary Inspector, six Sanitary supervisors, eight scavengers and 16 sweepers. They are responsible for keeping the town neat and clean. There are four public conveniences and four urinals maintained by the municipality.

The municipality has a compost yard and it owns a lorry to transport the rubbish materials to the yard. During the year 1985-86, the municipality has earned an income of Rs.1680 by selling the compost manures.

The prevention of food adulteration is in force in the municipality. The shops are inspected by the Food Inspector, specially appointed for the purpose, at periodical intervals, who collects samples, sends them to forensic laboratory for check and prosecution proceedings initiated against the persons concerned, wherever necessary. Till recently, the municipality maintained only open drainage to the total length of 3282 meters. Now it has been converted as storm water drainage.

I.U.D.P. : Under the Integrated Urban Development Programme, an amount of Rs.10.25 lakh has been sanctioned to this municipality on 19 November 1987. The amount is planned to be spent for the improvement of the bus stand and the work will be executed soon.

Miscellaneous : The municipality maintains a bus stand. The lease of the shops in the bus stand had fetched an income of Rs.31,709 during

the year 1985-86. The fee collected from the buses plied from and coming to the bus stand in the year 1985-86 works to Rs.46,298. There is also a slaughter house, through which the municipality derived an income of Rs.1,331 in the year 1985-86.

An electric siren has been erected in the Pettai market and it is maintained by the municipality. This siren is switched on daily at 5.00 a.m. 12.00 Noon and 9.00 p.m., for the convenience of the general public.

Municipal Elections : The election for Municipal Council was held on 23 February 1986 as in the case of the other municipalities in the State. The Chairman and Councillors were elected by the voters directly.

Function of the Council : There are twenty wards in the municipality and each is represented by a Councillor. The ward numbers 13 and 17 are reserved for Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively and the ward number 15 is reserved for woman. Various committees such as contract committee etc., have been formed from among the Councillors. During the year 1985-86, ten meetings were conducted, 118 subjects discussed and resolutions passed.

In the next year (1986-87), 25 meetings were conducted and decisions taken on 282 subjects. The total number of meetings conducted during 1987-88 is 20 and decisions were taken on 243 subjects.

Colachel Municipality :[22] Colachel, a port-town on the Western coast, was constituted as a municipality as early as 1920. The financial condition of the municipality is not sound, with the result that it still continues to remain as a third grade municipality. The jurisdiction of this municipality spreads over an area of 5.78 sq.km. The population as per the 1981 census is 23.124 and in 1988 the approximate population is 27,000.

Financial Condition : The annual income of the municipality from various sources during the year 1957-58 was Rs.33,772. It rose to Rs.44,890 in the year 1961-62.

The following table gives the details of the annual income of the municipality from 1975-76 to 1987-88.

Year	*Annual Income* (in rupees)
1975-76	2,98,701
1976-77	3,54,108
1977-78	2,59,829
1978-79	5,56,990
1979-80	6,67,667
1980-81	5,06,154
1981-82	6,24,550
1982-83	22,87,154
1983-84	8,39,879
1984-85	12,08,262
1985-86	15,23,955
1986-87	14,34,979
1987-88	26,93,699

Water Supply : The Colachel municipality does not have any major protected water supply system. However, there are two overhead tanks, the capacities of which are two lakhs and one lakh litres respectively. The sources of the water supply scheme is Vettumadai, a natural spring. There are three pumping stations to fill the overhead tanks. The municipality maintains 43 public fountains. It has given domestic water supply connections to 143 houses. The quantum of drinking water, supplied per day, is 32,500 lakh litres. Besides this system, there are 5 deep tube wells, 7 open wells and 26 hand pumps in the Municipality.

Under the Drought Relief Programme during the year 1986, 18 deep tube wells have been sunk. Perampuri vaikkal, a rivulet, running through the outskirts of the town, is also a source of drinking water to the municipal town. The water charge levied by the municipality, is Rs.1 per 1000 litres for domestic purposes and Rs.2 for commercial purposes. According to the municipality, the water supply system caters to the needs of only one third of the total population of the municipality.

A new Water Supply Scheme, - "Kuzhithurai river combined Water Supply Scheme" for Rs.148 lakhs, is under investigation by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board.[22A] If this scheme is

implemented successfully, the entire population of this municipality will be benefited.

Roads : The movement of vehicles in the municipal area is more frequent, since it has a minor port within its limits. It maintains black-topped and metal roads to the total length of 9.303 km., and 11.142 km. respectively, besides earthern road to the total length of 1.350 km.

Street Lights : The Streets of the town are provided with 13 Mercury Vapour lamps and 404 tube lights by the municipality. The total expenditure incurred by the Municipality towards maintenance of these street lights during the year 1986-87 is Rs.1.86,809.

Public Health : The public health of this town is looked after by the following staff of the Municipality :-

1. Selection Grade Sanitary Inspector 1, 2. Sanitary Supervisors 4, 3. Sanitary Assistant 1, 4. Sanitary Workers 22

The municipality maintains a Maternity Centre which is staffed with a Maternity Assistant and an Ayah. There are four flush out latrines and eighteen Urinals in the town under the maintenance of the municipality. There is also a compost yard to deposit the trash and other wastages collected from the streets of the town. The manure produced in the yard fetched an income of Rs.1680 during the year 1986-87.

The municipality does not have storm-water drainage system, until recently. The construction of storm water drainages for port streets. Market road and Colachel Adi-Dravidar Colony roads have since been completed by April 1988. There are also rain-water canals dug under the Self Sufficiency Scheme.

I.U.D.P. : Under the Integrated Urban Development Programme, a sum of rupees 20 lakh has been sanctioned to improve the bus stand of Colachel. The work is under execution by the Public Works Department.

Municipal Election. Municipal election was conducted for the Municipality in February 1986. The Municipality has been divided into 20 wards. The ward number 13 and 19 are reserved for women and scheduled castes respectively. The Chairman of Municipal Council and also the Councillors have been directly elected by the voters as in the case of the other municipalities.

Function of the Council : As in other municipalities, various committees have been formed among the Councillors such as Appointment Committee, Contract Committee, Appellate Committee, etc., and each Committee discharges its function. During the year 1986-87, 34 meetings of the Councils were convened and resolutions on 248 subjects have been passed. In the year 1987- 88, 26 meetings were conducted and 225 resolutions passed.

In the year 1986-87, Kanniyakumari district experienced a severe drought. Drought Relief Fund had been provided to this municipality also. Following is the list of works completed under Drought Relief Scheme:-

1 Desilting of open wells at the cost of Rs.24,000, 2 Drinking Water Supply through lorries at the cost of Rs.1,41,038.35. 3 Digging of open wells at the cost of Rs.2,13,810.80, 4 Integrated Drinking Water Development Programme at the cost of Rs.21,380.65, 5 Construction of five deep tube wells.

Miscellaneous : The municipality maintains a siren which is switched on to herald the time. There is a daily market belonging to this Municipality, which is leased out every year. During 1986-87, it was leased out to Rs.24,076. The lease of the shops in Colachel bus stand fetched Rs.17,288 during the year 1986-87. There is also a fish market run by this municipality, - the lease of which fetched Rs.7,000 during the year 1986-87.

Kuzhithurai Municipality :[23] Kuzhithurai, which was constituted as a Town Improvement Committee in 1914, was formed as a full- fledged municipality thereafter, as per the provisions of the Travancore municipalities Act, 1920. It continued to function as such as per the provisions of the Act till 31st March 1959 and with effect from 1st April 1959, the municipality along with other municipalities in the district was brought under the purview of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920.

This municipality is having jurisdiction over the portions of the revenue villages of Vilavankodu, Nalloor and Palcode of Vilavankodu taluk, which altogether forms a total area of 5.22 sq.km.

This municipality continues to remain as III grade, since its constitution. The population of the municipal town as per the 1981 Census is 18,427 and the approximate population as on date is 19,600.

Annual Income : The annual income of this municipality during the year 1921-22 was Rs.6,673 and it rose to Rs.94,890 in 1961-62. The annual incomes of this municipality since 1975-76, are given below:-

Year (1)	*Annual Income* (IN RUPEES) (2)
1975-76	6,48,491.74
1976-77	6,45,847.36
1977-78	6,50,473.98
1978-79	8,66,213.69
1979-80	7,67,812.00
1980-81	12,58,344.78
1981-82	17,38,511.71
1982-83	15,33,172.89
1983-84	18,03,933.49
1984-85	25,48,207.71
1985-86	24,63,729.10
1986-87	23,13,976.01
1987-88	24,91,564.80

Communications : The details of the various roads maintained by the municipality are as follows :–

Descriptions		*Length in km*
1. Cement road	–	0.938
2. Bitumen	–	10.410
3. W.B.M.	–	2.264
4. Unmetalled	–	6.119
Total	–	19.731

Street Lights : The municipality has provided street lights as detailed below :-

Description	Total numbers
1. Mercury vapour lamp	1
2. Tube lights	402
3. Ordinary lights	88
Total	491

The street lights are under the maintenance of the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board and the cost of maintenance is borne by the municipality. The maintenance cost was Rs.81,164/- during the year 1986-87.

Reading Room : The Municipal Council maintains three reading rooms and the cost of maintenance during the year 1986-87 was Rs.16,460. There is also a park under the maintenance of this municipality.

Public Health and Sanitation : This municipality maintains one Maternity and Child Welfare Centre under the supervision of a Maternity Assistant. There is also a Health Assistant who looks after the periodical vaccination and registration of births and deaths. Under Integrated Urban Development Programme, a "Pay and Use" toilet was constructed by the municipality at Thoduvetty market premises at the cost of Rs.20,000. The fees collected for the use of latrines and urinals of this "Pay and Use" toilet are 10 paise and 5 paise respectively. The right of collection of such fees is leased out every year, and it has fetched Rs.910/- during the year 1986-87. Besides this "Pay and Use" toilet, there are seven public conveniences and six urinals.

This municipality has its compost yard in an extent of 2.07 acres at Marthandam.

Food Adulteration Act : The Prevention of the Food Adulteration Act is in force in this municipality. During the year 1986-87 the total number of samples taken and sent for analysis was 37.

Water Supply : The protected water supply system is in operation in the municipality, since, 1967. The following are the sources for water supply in the municipality:-

Description	*Total number*		*Capacity* (IN LITRES)
1. Over head tanks	2	1.	90,000
		2.	90,000
2. Ground Level Reservoirs	3	1.	1,35,000
		2.	90,000
		3.	90,000
3. Hand Pumps	12		—
4. Open Wells	31		—

The minimum water charges for the domestic and non-domestic connections are Rs.5.50 and 20,50 respectively. For this minimum charge, maximum litres of water allowed for consumption, have been 5,000 litres and 10,000 litres in respect of domestic and non-domestic purposes respectively. For the additional consumptions, Rs.1 per 1,000 litres in cases of domestic connections and Rs.2 per 1,000 litres in cases of non-domestic connections are levied. The total number of public fountains in the town is 64.760 domestic and 98 non-domestic water supply connections have been provided in the town. The service connections are all under meter-system and the total amount collected as water charge during the year 1986-87, comes to Rs.1,58,548.

Remunerative Enterprises : The municipality maintains one daily vegetable market, one weekly cattle fair, a lorry stand and a bus stand. The annual income from all these sources every year since 1984-85, is as follows:-

Year (1)	*Income from market* RS. (2)	*Income from Lorry stand* RS. (3)	*Income from Bus Stand* RS. (4)
1984-85	1,44,775	2201	42,946
1985-86	1,50,986	3210	42,806
1986-87	1,89,660	7100	54,992

The municipality also has some vacant lands and buildings - the leasing of which has fetched an annual income Rs.52,661 in 1984- 85, Rs.61,178 in 1985-86 and Rs.70,668 in 1986-87.

Self Sufficiency Scheme : The self sufficiency scheme was extended to this municipality during 1984-85. Total amount spent under the scheme was Rs.16.71 lakhs. Details of the works executed are as follows:-

Description of work	RS. SPENT IN LAKHS
Water supply Improvements	6.20
Road Improvements	3.91
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	0.32
Public Conveniences	0.27
Culverts and Stormwater drains	1.02
Pathway to Adi-Dravidar Colonies and burial grounds	2.18
Housing to sanitary workers	2.81
Total amount spent	16.71

Slaughter house : The Municipality maintains a slaughter house and the right of collecting fee is leased out every year along with the daily market.

Municipal Council : The Municipal Council consists of the Chairman and 20 members, each representing one ward of which one ward is reserved for women. As in the case of other Municipalities in the State, the Municipal Election was held for the Municipal Council on 23 February, 1986.

Function of the Council : The Municipal Council has convened 34 meetings during the year 1986-87 of which 13 were ordinary meetings, 15 urgent meetings and 6 special meetings as against 22 meetings (ordinary-18; urgent-3 and special-1) held in the year 1985-86. In the meetings convened in 1986-87, 403 subjects were placed for discussion. Decisions on all of them have been taken, without omission. During 1987-88, one special meeting, 11 urgent meetings and 11 ordinary meetings were conducted and decisions taken on 314 subjects.

There are also committees constituted among the Council members such as :–

(i) Contract Committee ; (ii) Appointment Committee; and (iii) Taxation and Finance Committee.

The Contract Committee has held its meetings thrice in the year, discussed and taken decision on 17 subjects, while the Appointment Committee has held 5 meetings and taken decision on all the subjects. No meeting has, however, been held by the taxation and finance committee.

TOWN PLANNING

The Town and Country Planning in the district is basically the responsibility of the municipalities and town panchayats by virtue of they being designated as Local Planning Authorities under Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 and most of these functions are discretionery. The main functions are :–[24]

(i) to provide a framework for town expansion and to evolve specific plans for town development and improvement.

(ii) to zone specific areas for industrial, residential and other uses

(iii) to enforce building regulations to secure minimum standard of habitability and

(iv) to control and regulate private land development for buildings.

The statutory provisions available under the various enactments for the discharge of these functions and the specific plans prepared for the district and the urban and rural settlements are discussed below.

HISTORY OF LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL LAWS

Prior to 1884 the legal enactments which contained provisions for improvement of towns in rural areas and municipal towns were the Madras Local Funds Act, 1871 and the Madras Town Improvement Act,1871. In 1884, these Acts were superseded by fresh Acts, *viz.*, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1884 and the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884 under which the principles of Local Self Government were first introduced in the Presidency of Madras. Although these acts had obvious defects, the enforcement of proper regulation of streets and buildings was

not exercised properly and the general attitude of the local authorities was one of supreme apathy or lack of interest. This state of affairs continued for a period of 36 years until these Acts were repealed by another set of Acts in 1919 and 1920 *viz.*, The Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 and the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920; the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 and the Madras Town Planning Act, 1920.

TAMIL NADU TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1971

The Madras Town Planning Act, 1920 was repealed by the Tamil nadu Town and Country Planning Act 1971 which came into force on 15 September 1973. This Act provides for the constitution of separate Planning Authorities and for the preparation of the plans at different level.

(1) Regional Plan for the district, (2) Master Plan for the Town, (3) Detailed Developement Plan for the part of the towns.

Regional Plan : The two districts *viz.*, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari were notified as one of the viable planning areas notified for the whole of Tamil Nadu, and a regional plan was prepared for this viable region.

This plan dealt with the distribution of population and employment, the major communication network, the main policies for agricultural and industrial development and policy for towns and villages. Subsequently, the policy of viable planning regions was reversed and the Government notified District Regional Planning areas and thus the Kanniyakumari Planning Areas in the year 1983 for which a District Regional Planning Authority has to be constituted. Presently, the Town and Country Planning Department is engaged in the preparation of the District Plan.

Master Plans : The following are the five local planning areas notified under section 10 of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act 1971, Colachel, Kanniyakumari, Kuzhithurai, Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram.

Out of these 5 Local Planning Areas, Nagercoil is a composite Local Planning Area extending beyond the municipal boundary of Nagercoil. It has a separate Local Planning Authority constituted under Section 11 of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act 1971, for which the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Nagercoil is the Chairman and the Town Planning Officer of the Municipal Council is the Member-Secretary.

The other Local Planning Areas are single Local Planning Areas which are co-terminous with the respective municipal boundaries. In the case of Single Local Planning Areas, Master Plans have been prepared for all the Local Planning Areas excepting Colachel. Master Plan is a Development Plan prepared for any urban settlement under the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act. It proposes reservation of land for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes and for parks, play grounds, open spaces and for future development, expanasion and for new housing. It also proposes traffic and transportation pattern and major road and street improvements. All these 4 Master Plans have been consented by the Government for the notification in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette implying thereby that any person intending to carryout any development on any land or building within the Local Planning Areas have to make an application in writing to the appropriate planning authority for permission and the permission shall be accorded only in conformity with the Development Control Rules incorporated in the Master Plans. The Development Control Rules in the Master Plan prescribes :

(1) **Zoning regulation (*i.e.*)** the manner in which the land in the planning area can be used, the use of buildings, structures and land.

(2) **Building regulation :** The height, number of storeys and size of buildings and other structures, the size of the yards and other open spaces.

(3) **Sub-Division regulations :** Layout rules

Detailed Development Plans : The Detailed Development Plans are prepared for part of the urban settlements under Town and Country Planning Act, 1971. As the name itself implies these plans detail the layout of land as house sites, construction or demolition of buildings transport facilities, water supply, lighting and such other matters as may be prescribed. Detailed development plans have been prepared only for Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari local planning areas. Within Nagercoil local Planning Area there are 4 sanctioned and one Consented Detailed Development Plans. In Kanniyakumari Local Planning Area there are -

1. Sanctioned Detailed Development Plan, and 2. Consented Detailed Development Plan. All these 8 Detailed Development Plans have statutory validity and any development need to be in conformity with the rules.

The names of the sanctioned and consented plans are indicated in the Annexure 1 separately.

Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1920 and Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act,1958 : These Acts provide for the regulation of buildings, private land development for buildings, zoning of areas for industries and other uses in all the towns and villages in these towns. The Director of Town and Country Planning is the Appellate authority for the Tamil Nadu Municipal Building Rules framed under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1920. The lay-outs are approved by the municipalities and town panchayats based on the technical advice offered by the Director. The Industrial areas notified in this district are given in Annexure-2.

Parks, Play fields, Open spaces Act, 1959 : This Act provides for the reservation of any area for parks, play fields and open spaces. The list of notified parks, play fields and open spaces in this district is given in Annexure-3.

Integrated Urban Development Programmes : The objective of this programme initiated during the Fifth Five Year Plan were to augment the resources of the local bodies and provide basic infrastructure. The Director of Town and Country Planning is monitoring this programme. Colachel Town has been selected for financial assistance to the tune of Rs.20/- lakhs under this scheme for the construction of bus stand. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakhs was already released and the work is in progress. The details of amount sanctioned for other projects under Integrated Urban Development Programme are indicated in Annexure-4.

ANNEXURE – 1

Status of Detailed Development Plans Nagercoil Local Planning Area:

Sancti-oned (1)	*Name of the Detailed Development Plan (2)*	*Order (3)*
1.	Detailed Development Plan No.5 (Asaripallam Road North)	Proceedings of the Director of Town & Country Panning, Roc. No.2550/ 86 D2 dated 30 September, 1986.

2.	Town Planning Scheme No.1 (Parvathipuram North T.P. Scheme)	Roc. No. 44988/78, dated 27 April, 1981.
3.	Detailed Development Plan No.2	10665/88 D.2 dated 8 April, 1988.
4.	Town Plan Scheme No.3 (Parvathipuram South T.P. Scheme)	Roc. No. 5854/88 D2, dated 24 March, 1986.

Consented – D.D. Plan No. 4 — Roc. No.9735/82 D2., dated 21 December, 1986.

Kanniyakumari Local : Planning Area.–

Sanctioned 1 -	D.D.Plan No.1	Roc.No. 1357/88 D2, dated 8 April, 1988.
Consented -	D.D.Plan No.2	Roc. No. 4390/86 D2, dated 30 September, 1988.

ANNEXURE - 2

Notified Industrial Area

Name of the Locality	*Name of the Village*	*S.Nos.*	*Authority*
Kurundancodu	Muttam	473,475,476 and 477	T.N. Panchayat Act 1958.
Aralvaimozhi	Aralvaimozhi	69, to 112 124,358,to 365,368 369,372 to 374,376 to 383, 459 to 468, 487 to 516.	-Do-
Athoor	Athoor	212/1, 212/3	-Do-

ANNEXURE - 3

List of Notified Parks, playfields and open space areas :

(G.O.Ms.No.2440/RDLA, dated 18 September 1963).

Colachel Municipality :–

Park–

1. Municipal Office Park, ward-16 S.No. 9061, Colachel village, Extent = 164 X 64. 10496 sq.ft.

Nagercoil Municipality :–

G.O.Ms.No. 1515, RDLA, dated 17 August 1965.

PARKS

Descriptions	*Location Ward No.*	*S.No.*	*Extent A.C.*
Moulana Abulkalam Azad Memorial Municipal Park	2	–	0-07
Kandachankulam Park	7	1679/3 to 9	1-21
Thaliapuram Municipal Park	15	1898/72	0-65
Municipal Main Park	24	1382/825/1	4-31
Kosha Raman Pathoor Municipal Park	1919	–	0-22
Eralappaparam Municipal Park	30	949	0-56
St. Joseph Convent Girls Primary Middle and Higher School Park, Municipal Building	29	1573	0-54
D.V.D. High School Park play field	1	1627	0-60

PLAY FIELDS

Edalaundy Govt. School play field	1	1679/207	1-40
Police Parade play fields	9	1601	0-31
Govt.Primary School play field, Meenakshipuram	9	1595/pt	–
Public Badminton and Tennis Court	13	1769/139	0-83
S.M.R.V. School boys & Girls play field	15	636,635 1676	2-65
Y.M.C.A. play field, Nagercoil	22	19264	0-14
S.C.S.H. and college play field	22	1959	4-0
S.C.H.C. Nagercoil play field	22	1925	0-91
Recreation district club	22	3167	1-49
Concordia High School play field	22	274/7.10, 278/1	0-27
Recreation Boys play field	22	1882/75/1	0-27
S.T. Hindu College play field	25	1679/pt and 1690 pt	1-0 (Appx.)
Duthi Girls High School play field	25	1349 pt/ 1400 pt	1-62
Little Flower High Middle School play field	26	2317/pt 2318	1-62
Cormal Middle School (Convent) playfield	27	2026	1-44
S.L.B.School (Govt.) play field	35	–	4-65
Venkadapathy	25	1445	0-75

OPEN SPACES

Madam Koil open space	22	1382/775 A		0-35
S.B.B. Primary School Children's Corner Open air compound	28	1510		14-25
Construction of New Bus Stand	Nagercoil		25.00	
Construction of Shopping Complex	Nagercoil		24.00	
Construction of 'Pay and Use' Toilet under I.U.D.P.	1. Kuzhithurai		0.20	work completed
	2. Padmanabhapuram		0.20	"
	3. Kanniyakumari		0.88	"
Constructions and improvement under I.U.D.P.–				
Bus Stand Construction	Anjugramam		0.72	
Improvement of Bus Stand	1. Karungal		4.60	
	2. Kaliyakkavilai		4.00	
	3. Kuzhithurai		25.00	
	4. Padmanabhapuram		10.25	
	5. Colachel		20.00	
Improvement of shandy	Kulasekaram		5.60	

PANCHAYAT UNIONS

Administrative Set Up : In the State level, the Director of Rural Development is the Head of the Department. In the district level, the Collector is the Chief controlling authority of the Panchayat Unions. In Kanniyakumari district, the Collector is assisted in the Panchayat Administration by the Project Officer of the District Rural Development Agency, Personal Assistant, Divisional Development Officers, Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram Divisions and the Panchayat Union Commissioners, besides the elected non-official members of the Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. The entire district of Kanniyakumari

was under the jurisdiction of only one Developmental Division (i.e.) Padmanabhapuram division till 1979.

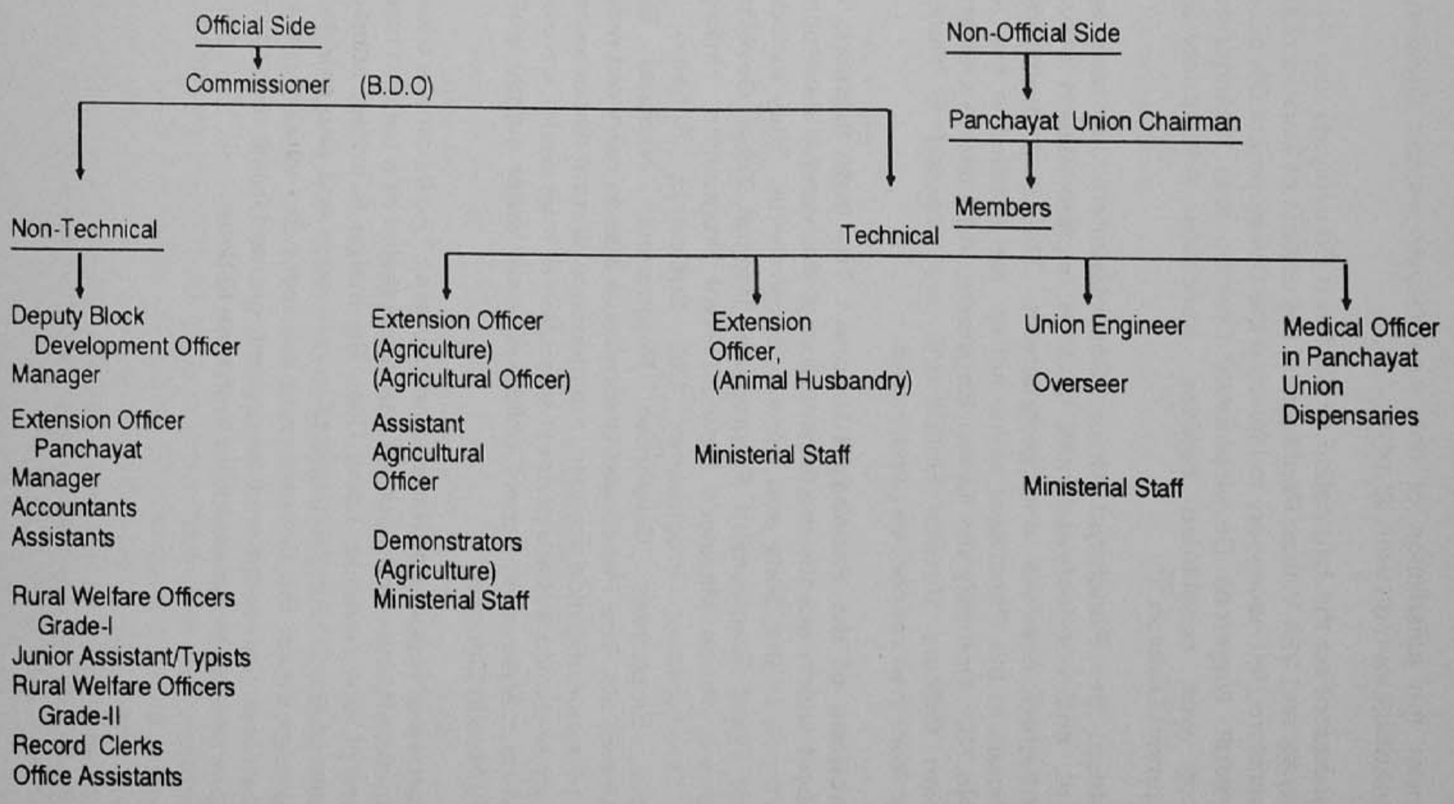
Consequent on the bifurcation of 46 Town Panchayats into 64 Town Panchayats and 224 Village Panchayats, the volume of work increased. It was, therefore, felt necessary to bifurcate the Development Division also. As a result, Nagercoil Developmental Division with Headquarters at Nagercoil was constituted besides, truncated Padmanabhapuram Development Division.[25]

Besides, the Panchayat Union Commissioners are assisted by technical, and non-technical staff towards implementation of various developmental activities and programmes. The staff members and non-officials in the Panchayat Union set up, are detailed in the table in page No.767. Normally the Union Engineers, Agricultural Officers and Extension Officers (Animal Husbandry) are deputed to Panchayat Unions, from their respective departments.

Functions of the Panchayat Unions : The main functions of the Panchayat Union are the implementation of the various developmental programmes of the State and Central Governments. They include, the National Rural Employment Programme, Integral Tribal Development Programme. Prime Minister's New 20 Point Programme, Intergrated Rural Development Programme, Self Sufficiency Scheme, Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme, National Bio-gas Programme, etc. The Panchayat Unions have also to carry out repairs to bunds of minor irrigation sources, maintenance of rural dispensaries and maternity and child welfare centres, execution of road works, construction of culverts, causeways, school buildings, rural water supply wells and Primary Health Centres.

Sources of Income of Panchayat Unions : The Income is derived by the Panchayat Union from out of Local Cess levied at a uniform rate of 45 per cent of land revenue. Local Cess Surcharge is levied, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.50 in the rupee of land revenue and also entertainment tax. Besides these, the Government have extended various grants such as Local Cess Surcharge matching grant, grants for link roads formation and other similar grants extended from time to time.

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF PANCHAYAT UNION



Collection of Taxes : Normally in village panchayats in Tamilnadu, the collection of various taxes due to the panchayats is entrusted to the village Administrative Officer. But in Kanniyakumari district there are full time Bill Collectors for a group of Village panchayats. This system which was in existence in the former Travancore Cochin administration still continues.

Classification of Panchayat Unions : Initially, the grants extended by the government to the Panchayat Unions were not in a uniform basis. The Panchayat Unions which were lagging behind in developmental activities, received more grants than the others. Hence, a norm for such sanction of grants was felt necessary and accordingly, the classification of Panchayat Unions was effected and certain norms were fixed in the year 1961. It was done on the basis of the per capita land revenue of the respective Panchayat Unions. Then the Panchayat Unions were classified as A, B, C, and D. In the year 1978, the classification was revised and it continues to be still in force. Now the Panchayat Unions have been classified as I, II, III, IV and V. The details of the classifications of the Panchayat Unions of Kanniyakumari district are as follows :-[26]

Name of the Panchyat Union	*Classification*	*Rate of Local Cess Surcharge*	*Government grrant*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
Thovalai	II	2.50	50 Per cent
Agasthiswaram	IV	2.10	70 Per cent
Rajakkamangalam	IV	2.10	70 Per cent
Kurunthencode	IV	2.50	70 Per cent
Thuckalai	V	2.50	85 Per cent
Thiruvattar	VI	2.50	95 Per cent
Killiyoor	VI	2.50	95 Per cent
Munchirai	VI	2.50	95 Per cent
Melpuram	V	2.50	85 Per cent

Panchayat Elections : Prior to 1969, the elections for the representatives of the Panchayats were held partially direct and partially indirect (*i.e.*) the members of the wards were elected by the people direct and they, in turn, elected the Presidents of the panchayats. The Chairman of the Panchayat Union was elected, later by the Presidents of

the Panchayats. For the first time in 1969, the Presidents of the Panchayats were elected direct by the people. The Panchayats so formed in 1969, were dissolved in the year 1979. The elections for the local bodies in the district were later conducted on 23 February 1986. The new method introduced during this time, for the election of Chairman of Panchayat Unions and Municipalities was direct poll by the people. Further, the political parties were also allowed to field their candidates of their own for these posts.

In Kanniyakumari district, there are 88 Village Panchayats, 66 Town Panchayats and a township.[27] In the last election, 1170 polling stations were established and 9 Panchayat Union Chairmans, 154 Panchayat Presidents and 2054 Members were elected. The electorate of all these local bodies, consists of 7,51,058 voters. It should also be mentioned that for the local body elections the minimum age limit prescribed for the voters to exercise their franchise is reduced from 21 to 18.

Details of Wards in Village and Town Panchayats (Panchayat Union wise)[28]

Sl.No.	*Name of the Panchayats*			*No.of wards*
1. Thuckalay Panchayat Union –				
1.	Kothanalloor Town Panchayat		..	14
2.	Kumarapuram	"	..	14
3.	Kappiari	"	..	14
4.	Thickanamcode	"	..	13
5.	Thiruvithancode	"	..	13
6.	Nullivilai	"	..	14
7.	Vilavoor	"	..	14
8.	Valvachagostam	"	..	14
9.	Mulagumoodu	"	..	13
10.	Eraniel Town Panchayat		..	12
11.	Athivilari Village Panchayat		..	5
12.	Kalkurichi	"	..	4
13.	Chadayamangalam	"	..	3

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayats			No.of wards
14.	Muthalakurichi Panchayat		..	5
15.	Maruthoorkurichi	"	..	3
2. Kurunthancode Panchayat Union –				
1.	Reethapuram	"	..	13
2.	Neyyoor	"	..	13
3.	Therkarai	"	..	2
4.	Villukury	"	..	13
5.	Aloar	"	..	12
6.	Kattinamode	"	..	4
7.	Netvancode	"	..	4
8.	Kakkottuthalai	"	..	4
9.	Thingal Nagar	"	..	13
10.	Kallukoottam	"	..	14
11.	Sinon Colony	"	..	4
12.	Mandaicadu	"	..	13
13.	Thalakulam	"	..	5
14.	Manavalakurichy	"	..	13
15.	Vellimalai	"	..	13
16.	Kurunthencode	"	..	4
17.	Vellichanthai	"	..	13
18.	Muttom	"	..	4
3. Melpuram Panchayat Union –				
1.	Kalliakkavilai Town Panchayat		..	14
2.	Palugal	"	..	14
3.	Edaicode	"	..	15
4.	Pacode	"	..	15
5.	Arumanai	"	..	14

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayats			No.of wards
6.	Kadayal Panchayat		..	14
7.	Vanniyoor Village Panchayat		..	4
8.	Malayadi	"	..	4
9.	Devicode	"	..	4
10.	Puliyoorsalai	"	..	4
11.	Mancode	"	..	4
12.	Maruthencode	"	..	4
13.	Vellamcode	"	..	5
14.	Muzhucode	"	..	4
15.	Manjalumoodu	"	..	3
16.	Vilavancode	"	..	4
4. Munchirai Panchayat Union –				
1.	Puthukkadai Town Panchayat		..	13
2.	Painkulam	"	..	15
3.	Vilathurai	"	..	14
4.	Ezhudesom	"	..	14
5.	Methukummal	"	..	13
6.	Kollencode	"	..	15
7.	Munchirai Village Panchayat		..	4
8.	Mankadu	"	..	4
9.	Thoothoor	"	..	5
10.	Vavarai	"	..	5
11.	Kulapuram Village Panchayat		..	6
12.	Adaikkakuzhi	"	..	5
13.	Choozhal	"	..	3
14.	Nadaikkavoo	"	..	5

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayats			No.of wards
5. Thiruvattar Panchayat Union –				
1.	Kattathurai Town Panchayat		..	14
2.	Thiruvattar	"	..	14
3.	Thirparappu	"	..	14
4.	Verkilambi	"	..	13
5.	Ponmanai	"	..	14
6.	Pechipparai	"	..	12
7.	Attoor	"	..	13
8.	Kulasekaram	"	..	14
9.	Ayacode Village Panchayat		..	4
10.	Chorukolo	"	..	4
11.	Kumarankudi	"	..	4
12.	Aruvikkarai	"	..	3
13.	Kananoor	"	..	4
14.	Surulacode	"	..	3
15.	Balamore	"	..	3
16.	Yettacode	"	..	4
6. Thovalai Panchayat Union –				
1.	Aralvoimozhy	"	..	14
2.	Arumanalloor	"	..	3
3.	Azhagiapandipuram	"	..	14
4.	Beemmanagary	"	..	3
5.	Bhoothapandy	"	..	13
6.	C.R. Puthoor	"	..	3
7.	Derisanamcope	"	..	3
8.	Erachakulam	"	..	3
9.	Esanthimangalam	"	..	3

Sl.No.	*Name of the Panchayats*			*No.of wards*
10.	Gnalam	Panchayat	..	3
11.	Kadukkarai	"	..	4
12.	Kattuputhoor	"	..	3
13.	Mudakanvilai	"	..	3
14.	Sahayanagar	"	..	5
15.	Thadikkarankonam	"	..	4
16.	Thazhakudy	"	..	12
17.	Thellanthi	"	..	3
18.	Thirupathisaram	"	..	3
19.	Thidal	"	..	5
20.	Thovalai	"	..	4
7. Rajakkamangalam Panchayat Union –				
1.	Elluvilai Village Panchayat		..	3
2.	Peruvilai	"	..	3
3.	Kaniyakulam	"	..	4
4.	Puthery	"	..	3
5.	Gandhipuram	"	..	4
6.	Parakkai	"	..	3
7.	Manakudy	"	..	4
8.	Pallamthurai	"	..	4
9.	Melakrishnanpudur	"	..	3
10.	Athicattuvilai	"	..	3
11.	Kasavanputhenthurai	"	..	4
12.	North Soorankudy	"	..	3
13.	Ganapathipuram Town Panchayat		..	14
14.	Rajakkamangalam	"	..	14
15.	Melasanakarankudi	"	..	14

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayats			No.of wards
16.	Asaripallam Town Panchayat		..	13
17.	Thengampudur	"	..	14
18.	Puthalam	"	..	13
19.	Bharmapuram	"	..	14
8. Killiyoor Panchayat Union –				
1.	Karingal Town Panchayat		..	14
2.	Keezhkulam Town Panchayat		..	14
3.	Killiyoor	"	..	14
4.	Nalloor	"	..	14
5.	Palappallam	"	..	14
6.	Unnamalakadi	"	..	15
7.	Bhayam-puthenthurai village Panchayat			5
8.	Kollenchi Village Panchayat		..	4
9.	Mathicode	"	..	4
10.	Midalam	"	..	4
11.	Mullenginavilai	"	..	5
12.	Nattalam	"	..	4
13.	Paloor	"	..	4
14.	Thippramalai	"	..	3
9. Agasthiswaram Panchayat Union				
1.	Agasthiswaram Town Panchayat		..	13
2.	Astappapuram	"	..	12
3.	Anjugraman	"	..	13
4.	Kottaram	"	..	12
5.	Mylaudy	"	..	13
6.	South Tamaraikulam	"	..	13
7.	Sucindram	"	..	13

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayats		No.of wards
8.	Theroor Town Panchayat	..	13
9.	Marugur "	..	13
10.	Eranipudur Village Panchayat	..	3
11.	Kovalam "	..	5
12.	Kulasekarapuram "	..	4
13.	Karumbattur "	..	5
14.	Kariamanickapuram "	..	4
15.	Leepuram "	..	3
16.	Maharajapuram "	..	3
17.	North Tamaraikulam "	..	4
18.	Nalloor "	..	5
19.	Parchalingapuram "	..	3
20.	Ramapuram "	..	5
21.	Swamythoppu "	..	3
22.	Therakalputhur "	..	3

District Development Council : The District Development Council in the district has been established as per the provisions of the Tamil Nadu District Development Councils Act, 1958 (Act XVIII of 1958). As per the Act, the following officals and non-officials of the district are the members of the District Development Councils of each District in Tamil Nadu :-[28A]

(a) The District Collector - Chairman.

(b) Elected members of the House of People and elected members of the State Legislative Assembly chosen to represent a constituency which consists of, or comprises or, relates to the district or any portion there of or who reside in the district.

(c) Elected members of the Council of States representing the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Elected members of the State Legislative Council (In Tamil Nadu, the State Legislative Council was, however, abolished with effect from 1 November 1986.)

(e) Nominated members of Parliament of this State and State Legislature who have intimated their desire to serve as a Member of the District Development Council.

(f) All Chairmen of Panchayat Union Councils in the district.

(g) All Chiarmen of Municipal Councils in the district.

(h) Presidents of the Co-operative Central Banks in the district.

(i) High level officers of the Government connected with planning and execution of development schemes in the district as are nominated by the Government.

(j) The Government may also nominate the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Bhoodan Yagna Board, any officials of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board or any other Board or Committee constituted under any law for the time being in force, as member of one or more District Development Councils as may be specified in such notification.

(k) The Collector shall, by notification, nominate before the Commencement of each year, a president of a Town Panchayat by rotation, as a member of the District Development Council and the member so nominated shall enter upon office on the commencement of the year.

If a Parliamentary or Legislative Constituency forms part of more than one Development Council, the members concerned should intimate his desire to the Chairman that to which of the Development Council he wants to serve as member.

No elected Member of Parliament or State Legislature shall be members of more than one District Development Council. In case if any elected member of Parliament or State Ligislature or Chairman of any Panchayat Unions or Municipal Council or President of any Town Panchayats ceases to hold such office, his membership in the District Development Council also shall stand cancelled.

Functions of the District Development Council : The District Development Council shall advise the Government on all matters concerning the activities of panchayats, panchayat union Councils and Municipal Councils in the district as well as on all matters relating to the development of the economic resources of the district and the services maintained therein for promoting the culture and welfare of the inhabitants of the district. In particular, it shall be the duty of the 'District Development Council' to perform the following functions, namely :-

(a) Advising the Government on all matters relating to the Services maintained by and all development schemes undertaken by all local authorities in the district as well as those agencies in the district which are under the administrative control of the Government in the following departments, namely :-

(i) Food and Agriculture (ii) Industries, Labour and Co-operation (iii) Public Works and (iv) Health, Education and Local Administration.

(b) Watching the progress of the measures undertaken by the Government, local authorities and departmental agencies in respect of the resources and Development Schemes.

(c) Advising the Government on all matters concerning the implementation of any provision of law or any order specially referred by the Government to the District Development Council such as,

(i) Classification of markets as panchayat markets and panchayat Union markets and fixing rates of contribution payable by one authority to other ; (ii) Classification of fairs and festivals and classification of public roads as panchayat union roads and village roads.

(d) Advising the Government on all matters relating to development of road transport.

Conduct of Meetings and Constitution of various Committees : The District Development Council may meet as often as may be necessary, but not more than three months shall elapse between two meetings. In the absence of the District Collector, who is the Chairman of the District Development Council, any member nominated by the Chairman shall preside over the meeting of the District Development Council. All questions at a meeting of the District Council shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting and in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman, of the 'DDC', or in his

absence, the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote. A member of the 'DDC', who is an officer of the Government shall have a right to take part in the discussion, but shall not have a right to vote at a meeting of the Council and shall not be a member of the Council for any other purposes. For purpose of assisting the District Development Council, in discharging its various functions and duties, Standing Committees may be constituted, for dealing with,

1. Food and Agriculture 2. Industries and Labour 3. Public Works 4. Education and 5. Health and Welfare including Prohibition.

It may also constitute additional Standing Committees whenever and wherever necessary. Each such Committee shall elect its own Chairman from among its members who are members of the District Development Council. The members of these Standing Committees nominated, chosen or appointed, shall cease to hold office at the end of each year and the members of the Standing Commitees for the ensuring year, shall be nominated, chosen, or appointed before the expiry of the year, but shall not enter upon the office, until the commencement of the ensuing year.

District Development Council in Kanniyakumari District :[29] The entire district of Kanniyakumari has been formed as one District Development Council for which the Collector is the ex-officio Chairman. This Council consists of 23 non-official and 65 official members.

There are also Standing Committees functioning for Education, Public Works, Health and Family Welfare, Food and Agriculture and Industries and Labour, constituted from among the members of the council. These Committees prepare the issues and agendas in their respective spheres, for being discussed in the Council meeting. Besides these committees, other individual members also can place subjects to be discussed in the Council meetings. The decisions taken in the Council meeting are communicated to the Government as well as to all the members. Follow up action is also taken on the decisions taken and the resolutions passed in the Council. In the Council meetings, the Collector, as the Chairman of the Council reviews the progress of implementation of the various State and National Developmental Programmes in the district, and issues guiding instructions on the spot, to expedite the remaining item of work, in a record time.

1. Agasthiswaram Panchayat Union :[30] Thirteen village panchayats, and nine town panchayats constitute the Agasthiswaram Panchayat

Union. The head quarters of the Panchayat Union is located at Perumalpuram of Agasthiswaram taluk.

The following village panchayats of this Union are provided with protected drinking water facilities through overhead tanks, which are also supplemented by wells and hand pumps :-

1. Ramapuram 2. Nalloor 3. Eraviputhoor 4. Kulasekarapuram 5. North Tamaraikulam 6. Swami Thoppu 7. Maharajapuram 8. Karumpatoor 9. Kovalam 10. Panchalinagaram and 11. Leepuram

In other village panchaytas, well and hand pumps cater to the drinking water need of the general public.

Water resources of these panchayat unions were improved from out of the funds allotted under Drought Relief Scheme. Under the scheme, existing wells were deepened and new wells also dug. The details are as follows :-

Year	*Description of works*	*Cost involved in Rupees*	*Total No.of works*
1986-87	Deepening of wells	1,98,323	2
1987-88	1. Construction of open wells	3,35,226	5
	2. Deepening of wells	79,971	27
	3. Construction of Ring Wells	48,483	10
	4. Deepening of uranis and streams	56,216	7

The Panchayat Union maintains roads to the aggregate length of 132.60 km. and in the year 1985-86 the panchayat union has spent Rs.2,24,745 to maintain the existing roads and to form new roads. Under Drought Relief Scheme during the year 1987-88, 27 kutcha roads were laid at the total cost of Rs.1,34,303.

Under the Development Schemes such as National Rural Employment Programme and Self-Sufficiency Scheme, the major works executed in this Panchayat Union between the years 1978 and 1985 are as follows :-

(1) Construction of 2 agricultural godowns;

(2) Construction of 12 public conveniences;

(3) 20 Balwadi buildings;

(4) 21 Water Supply Schemes (either providing overhead tank, hand pump, pump house or extension of pipe line);

(5) Construction of 11 noon-meal centres;

(6) Construction of 13 Community Recreation Centres and

(7) Construction of an Office building at Ramapuram.

During the financial year 1985-86, the total income of the Panchayat Union has been Rs.61,75,356.18 and the expenditure Rs.33,97,230.50.

The Panchayat Union Council consists of the Chairman and 22 members who are the elected Presidents of the Town and Village Panchayats comprised in the Union.

2. Thuckalai Panchayat Union :[31] Thuckalay Panchayat Union comprises of ten town panchayats and five village panchayats. It is located in Kalkulam Taluk and the head quarters of the Panchayat Union is at Kozhiporevilai. It comes under the jurisdiction of Padmanabhapuram Divisional Development Officer. The town panchayats of this Union supply protected drinking water through power pumps, while in the village panchayats, the sources are wells and hand pumps. There are 29 hand pumps in the five village panchayats of the union.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme has been implemented in this Panchayat Union in a phased manner, from 1982-83 onwards. In every phase, two revenue villages were selected for extending loan assistance and other benefits through this Programme. The final phase by which the entire villages of the Panchayat Union have been covered by this programme, has been implemented during 1986- 87.

The other developmental plans such as National Rural Employment Programme, Self-Sufficiency Scheme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme have also been implemented in this Panchayat Union. Under National Rural Employment Programme Social Forestry

has been raised at Udhayagiri village of this Panchayat Union during 1983-84.

The species of the forest consist of Albesia, mango and Singapore Kapat. In 1985-86, further additions to the forest have been tamarind, neem and cashew plants.

Under National Project on Bio-gas Development Programme, the Panchayat Union had assisted 108 applicants to install bio-gas plants. The assistance was in the form of loan with subsidy. Still more applicants are to get the benefit.

The following are the loan assistance extended by the panchayat Union under various schemes:-

Names of the Schemes and Years in which they were implemented	*No.of beneficiaries*	*Cost of benefit* (IN RUPEES)
National Rural Employment Programme –		
1. 1982-83	173	1462863.40
2. 1983-84	87	202792.65
3. 1984-85	84	1621399.60
4. 1985-86	114	1537550.55
Integrated Rural Development Programme –		
1. 1982-83	185	200000
2. 1983-84	350	350000
3. 1984-85	74	250000
4.1985-86	600	460000
5. 1986-87	600	550000
Massive Programme –		
1. 1983-84	65	185000
2. 1984-85	74	250000
3. 1985-86	52	150000
4. 1986-87	40	100000

The annual income of the Panchayat Union during 1962-63, when it was formed was Rs.284515.23. In 1967-68, it was Rs.3,33,867.29. The

income had more or less doubled during 1972-73, i.e., Rs.682152.00. The annual income was steadily increasing year by year and during 1976-77, it was Rs.13,37,307.23. It became Rs.31,95,610.33 during 1981-82. During 1985-86, the annual income has been Rs.33,16,532.02.

The Panchayat Union maintains roads depending upon the availability of funds. Street lights have been provided wherever necessary. The following are the details of the provision of street lights in the village panchayats, of this Union.

Name of the village panchayat	*No. of tube lights provided*	*No. of bulbs provided*
1. Athivilai	134	—
2. Kalkurichi	50	—
3. Maruthoorkurichi	73	55
4. Muthalakurichi	51	—
5. Chadayamangalam	74	—
Total	382	55

The Panchayat Union Council consists of Chairman, 15 members (panchayat presidents) and 8 co-opte ıembers.

3. Kurunthankodu Panchayat Union : The Kurunthankodu Panchayat Union comprised of 9 town panchayats and 23 village panchayats until March 1983. The head quarters of the Union is at Kurunthancode of Kalukulam taluk. It falls within the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram Development Division. When the scheme of amalgamation of Panchayats was taken up, the Panchayat Union was reconstituted with ten town panchayats and eight village panchayats. The office of the Panchayat Union was functioning in a rented building till 1975 and thereafter, it was shifted to its own building. The Panchayat Union was originally named as Thalakulam Block, when the Community Development Block was formed on 1 April 1958 and it was so upto 1 April 1962, when the block was converted into a full fledged Panchayat Union. Afterwards, it was named as Kurunthenkodu Panchayat Union. The head quarters of the Union is at Kurunthenkodu.

There are 13 overhead tanks, 6 ground level reservoirs, 273 open wells and 95 borewells in the Panchayat Union to supply protected drinking water. Ten of the eighteen panchayats of this Union are

provided with overhead tank facilities, six panchayats are provided with ground level water reservoirs and in other village panchayats, there are wells and bore wells.

Works under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Self-Sufficiency Schemes, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, have been executed in all the Panchayats of this Union. Under the National Project on Bio-Gas Development Programme, 42 bio-gas plants have been installed in this Union from the year 1981 to 1987, which involved loan assistance and subsidy of Rs.85,000.

A Social Forest containing 30,000 seedlings of alpheein, Koovapil, coconut, tamarind, neem, and vengai was raised under the implementation of the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme. The forest was raised at the cost of Rs.280704.65. About 4000 people secured employment, by this scheme. Under National Rural Employment Programme, 160 houses for Adi- Dravidars have been built. Under Integrated Rural Development Programme, loan asistance has been extended to develop agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and small industries of this Union. Training of Rural youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) scheme has also been financed under the Integrated Development Programme. The Integrated Rural Development Programme, has been implemented in this Union at the cost of Rs.48 lakhs and the beneficiaries number around 4200. Under 'Massive Programme' of Assistance the Panchayat Union has extended loan assistance of Rs.5,45,000 to the small farmers, for improving their irrigation sources, for raising fruit gardens, fuel trees etc.

The Panchayat Union maintains 19 km. of mud roads, 54.40 km. of metalled roads and 2.50 km. of black topped roads. The Panchayats of this Union maintain 20.30 km. of mud roads, 28.70 km. of metalled roads and 8.20 km. of black topped roads.

Six Maternity Centres, ninteen balwadies, one rural dispensary, two veterinary dispensaries, two key village sub-centres, two primary health centres, forty two radio rooms and sixteen community recreation centres are maintained by this Panchayat Union.

The annual income of the Panchayat Union during the year of constitution (i.e.) 1961-62 was Rs.132700.00. In 1966-67, it was Rs.417055.50, more or less a quadruple rise. During 1971-72, the

annual income was Rs.748396.18. The income steadily increased thereafter and in 1976-77, it was Rs.9,36,945.

The annual incomes of the Panchayat Union since 1981-82 have been as follows :–

Year	*Income in Rupees*
1981-82	2913156.75
1982-83	280223.45
1983-84	2179430.47
1984-85	1567147.45
1985-86	2243942.18

All the villages in the Union are electrified and street lights provided wherever necessary. The following are the details, of street lights provided in village panchayats :–

Name of the Village Panchayat	*No.of street light provided*
1. Kurunthankodu	166
2. Thenkarai	24
3. Nettencode	98
4. Kakkottuthadai	59
5. Thalakulam	115
6. Muttam	92
7. Kattimancode	171
8. Simon colony	109
Total	834

The Panchayat Union Council consists of 25 members including the Chairman, 18 panchayat presidents and 7 co-opted members.

4. Melpuram Panchayat Union :[33] Melpuram Panchayat Union consists of ten village panchayats and six town panchayats. The head

quarters of the Panchayat Union is at Pacode of Vilavankodu taluk. The Padmanabhapuram Development Division has jurisdiction over the union.

The National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme have been implemented in the Union,covering all the villages comprised in the Union. In the year 1986-87, two villages viz., Pacode and Anducode have been selected as a 'cluster village,* for the extension of the benefits under the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

During the year 1986-87, under Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Loan Assistance was extended to 434 beneficiaries. The subsidy under this assistance alone costs Rs.5,34,854. Under Massive Programme of Assistance 57 people have been benefited with the total amount of subsiby of Rs. 1,21,756. Under the scheme of Social Forestry, a sum of Rs.80,000 has been spent in the year 1986-87, to plant 14,150 seedlings, under Socio Forestry.

The Union has arranged for the installation of 5 bio-gas plants so far and 10 more plants will be installed soon. All the village panchayats have been provided with street lights. The details are given below:-

	Name of the Village Pachayats (1)		*No. of Street light provided* (2)
1	Maruthancode	..	96
2.	Devicode	..	158
3.	Mylayadi	..	87
4.	Puliyoorsalai	..	61
5.	Mancode	..	233
6.	Vanniyoor	..	43
7.	Vilavancode	..	184
8.	Nanjalamoodu	..	169
9.	Villancode	..	208
10.	Muzhucode	..	52

The Panchayat Union maintains gravelled roads to the total length of 85.96 km. metalled roads for 55.40 km. and black topped roads for 5.20 km. while the panchayats maintain gravelled and metalled roads to the total length of 24.200 kilometers and 4.00 kilometers respectively.

There are 86 hand pumps and eight power pumps in the union to provide drinking water, besides open wells and streams.

The Chairman, sixteen panchayat presidents, two co-opted members and three nominated members form the Panchayat Union Council.

5. Munchiral Panchayat Union :[34] The Munchirai Panchayat Union comprises of eight village panchayats and six town panchayats. Munchirai is the head quarters of the Union, which is located in Vilavankodu taluk. It lies within Padmanabhapuram Development Division. Six of the village panchayats are provided with protected water supply facilities and the rest of them have open wells and bore wells. There are 41 hand pumps and 10 power pumps in the village panchayats of the Union.

The total length of the roads maintained by the Union is 107.40 kilometers of which 2.30 kilometers are mud roads, 102.8 kilometers are hilly tracks and 2.60 kilometers are roads in coastal region.

There are 52 social education centres in the Union which aim at removing the illiteracy and impart education on social problems.

All the village panchayats in this Union are well lit. The details are as follows:-

	Name of the Panchayat (1)		*No. of street lights provided (2)*
1	Munchirai	..	111
2	Mankadu	..	133
3	Thoothoor	..	78
4	Vavarai	..	152
5	Kulapuram	..	164
6	Adaikkakuzhi	..	196
7	Choozhal	..	162
8	Nadaikkavo	..	105
		Total	1101

The entire area of the Panchayat Union has been benefited by the National Development plans, such as Integrated Rural Development

Programme, Self Sufficiency Scheme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and National Rural Employment Programme. Under National Project on Bio-Gas Development Programme, 85 Bio-gas plants have been installed in the Union, with loan assistance and subsidy. The number of plants in the Union is likely to be increased soon. Seven thousand and seven hundred seedlings has been raised during the year 1986-87, under Socio Forestry Scheme.

The annual income of the Panchayat Union during 1985-86 is Rs.20,06,857.33. Details of the annual incomes of this Union in previous years are given below:-

	Years (1)		*Annual Income* (2) RS. PS.
1	1976-77	..	6,57,656.66
2	1977-78	..	10,76,418.81
3	1978-79	..	10,78,015.10
4	1979-80	..	10,11,312.13
5	1980-81	..	30,60,348.18
6	1981-82	..	34,75,383.64
7	1982-83	..	43,85,000.78
8	1983-84	..	29,66,493.35
9	1984-85	..	17,88,617.43

The Council of Panchayat Union consists of the Chairman, 14 Presidents of the Panchayats, 2 nominated members and 6 co-opted members.

6. Thiruvattar Panchayat Union :[35] Eight village panchayats and eight town panchayats come under the jurisdiction of the Tiruvattar Panchayat Union. This Union is in Kalkulam taluk and Thiruvattar is its head quarters. It is one of the Panchayat Unions, which constitute the Padmanabhapuram Development Division. This Panchayat Union maintains 1 primary health centre, 12 maternity and child welfare centres, 2 veterinary dispensaries 3 veterinary sub-centres and 26 social education centres.

The Panchayat Union maintains roads to the total length of 123.8 kilometers of which 7.3. kilometers of roads are black topped, 83.7 kilometers are metalled and 32.8 kilometers are earthern roads. Eleven of

the 16 panchayats of this Union supply protected drinking water, through overhead tanks. There are 15 overhead tanks in the Union. Besides, there are also two ground level reservoirs, 230 open wells and 91 hand pumps in the Union to quench the thirst of the people.

All the developmental schemes, (i.e.) Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Self Sufficiency Scheme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme etc. have been implemented in this Panchayat Union.

In between the years 1978 and 1987, 93 applicants in the Panchayat Union area were extended loan assistance with subsidy to install bio-gas plants. The amount spent under this scheme, is Rs.1,83,230.

The Socio-Forestry Scheme also has been implemented in this Union. About 65,250 seedlings of Alphelia, Subapul and coconut were planted to raise social forests in the Union. Social forests were raised through the implementation of National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. About 2000 persons have secured employment, by these programmes. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, small and marginal farmers were extended loan assistance with subsidy to improve agriculture. Unemployed persons, who wanted to do business, were advanced loans, all with subsidy to boost their economic conditions and standard of living. In this Union, 2362 persons have been benefited by this programme and the cost involved is Rs.15,01,227. Under Massive Programme of Assistance, 345 people were benefited, at the cost of Rs.7,04,248/- by means of loans, etc.

The streets of all the panchayats of this Union are provided with electric lights. What follows is the details of the provision of street lights in the village panchayats:-

	Name of the Panchayat (1)		*No.of street lights* (2)
1	Aruvikkarai	..	158
2	Ayacode	..	157
3	Balamore	..	10
4	Cherucode	..	103
5	Surulacode	..	76
6	Kannoor	..	73

(1)			(2)
7	Kumarankudy	..	66
8	Yettocode	..	85
		Total	728

The Panchayat Union Council consists of the Chairman, 16 presidents of the panchayats and 8 nominated and co-opted members.

Annual Income : The Annual Income of the Panchayat Union since 1962-63, is as follows:-

Year (1)		Income IN RUPEES (2)
1962-63	..	223420.45
1963-64	..	280604.82
1964-65	..	201998.33
1965-66	..	281667.97
1966-67	..	301964.12
1967-68	..	363869.02
1968-69	..	303690.17
1969-70	..	399465.30
1970-71	..	597688.79
1971-72	..	474855.20
1972-73	..	472454.22
1973-74	..	875076.82
1974-75	..	1128937.19
1975-76	..	1206697.55
1976-77	..	891459.27
1977-78	..	1478031.30
1978-79	..	1870671.67
1979-80	..	1651162.63
1980-81	..	3601161.55
1981-82	..	3077268.84
1982-83	..	4773137.66

(1)		(2)
1983-84	..	3386456.72
1984-85	..	3082672.42
1985-86	..	3531984.47

7. Thovalai Panchayat Union[36]: Thovalai Panchayat Union comprises of 16 village Panchayats and 4 town panchayats. The headquarters of the Panchayat Union is Boothapandi of Thovalai taluk. It comes under the jurisdiction of Nagercoil Development Division.

All the villages of this Union are provided with protected drinking water through 24 power pumps and 113 hand pumps, besides, a good number of open wells. The Mukkudal lake is a source of water supply to this Union. Under Drought Relief Schemes the existing wells were deepened and new wells constructed. The details are given below:-

Year	*Description of works*	*Cost involved in Rupees*	*Total No. of works*
1986-87	Construction of new well	34,575	1
	Deepening of wells	95,153	19
1987-88	Construction of new wells	4,33,153	11
	Deepening of wells	85,548	11

Besides this, Under Labour Oriented Schemes, more wells were deepened during 1987-88 at a cost of Rs.5,53,196.

Self-sufficiency Scheme has been implemented in this Union, since, 1981-82. Under this scheme, five additional buildings to the existing schools and Panchayat Office Building have been built so far.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme has been implemented in the Panchayat Union, since 1983-84. The total number of beneficiaries under this scheme in 1982-83 was 508. It was 576 in 1983-84, 792 in 1984-85 and 1436 in 1985-86.

The National Rural Employment Programme has been implemented in this Union and the services of those employed by this programme, have been utilised in building three Community Recreation Centres, repairing and laying 11 roads and silting 15 tanks. Under Labour Oriented

Schemes during 1987-88 new roads were formed at a cost of Rs.1,10,083.

Eighty five rural folks have been benefited by the extension of loan assistance with subsidy for installing bio-gas plant from the year 1977 to 1986.

All the village panchayats are electrified and the following is the number of street lights provided in each panchayat :–

Name of the panchayat (1)	*No.of street lights provided* (2)
1. Arumanallur	80
2. Beemanagari	43
3. C.R.Puthoor	71
4. Derisanam cope	70
5. Erachaikulam	97
6. Gnalam	110
7. Esanthimangalam	106
8. Kadukkarai	155
9. Kattuputhoor	57
10. Madhavalayam	102
11. Sahayanagar	139
12. Thadakarankonam	63
13. Thellanthi	52
14. Thirupathisaram	42
15. Thidal	17
16. Thovalai	126

Social education centres and maternity and child welfare centres are also maintained in this Union.

Annual Income: The annual income of this Panchayat Union from 1962-63 to 1985-86 was as follows:-

Year	*Income* (IN RUPEES)
1962-63	1,13,673.98
1963-64	4,10,375.14

(1)	(2)
1964-65	3,44,880.14
1965-66	4,18,770.40
1966-67	3,27,430.38
1967-68	3,73,232.35
1968-69	3,34,138.78
1969-70	2,75,133.99
1970-71	Not available
1971-72	4,70,240.37
1972-73	5,25,264.76
1973-74	8,19,330.38
1974-75	15,47,605.52
1975-76	17,33,145.16
1976-77	10,78,763.84
1977-78	25,56,505.32
1978-79	16,81,757.46
1979-80	10,26,168.71
1980-81	22,25,378.50
1981-82	35,65,079.31
1982-83	32.65,198.80
1983-84	20,69,427.62
1984-85	24,02,119.65
1985-86	37,59,054.09

The Panchayat Union Council includes the Chairman of the Panchayat Union, 20 presidents of the member-panchayats and seven nominated and co-opted members.

8. Rajakkamangalam Panchayat Union :[37] Rajakkamangalam Panchayat Union consists of twelve village panchayats and seven town panchayats. Pazhavilai of Agasthiswaram taluk is the headquarters of the Union. The Nagercoil Development Division has jurisdiction over this Union. All the villages in the Panchayat Union have protected water supply. There are thirteen over-head tanks and eight gound level reservoirs for the purpose. 27 Ring wells were deepened at a cost of Rs.1,62,087, under the Drought Relief Scheme during the year 1986-87.

In the year 1987-88 more wells, 17 uranis and streams numbering about 112, were deepened at a cost of Rs.11,79,007.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme has been implemented in this Union from the year 1980-81. Every year, a group of three or four village panchayats have been selected to avail loan assistance with subsidy. The details of the beneficiaries every year, from the year of introduction are given below :-

Year	*No.of beneficiaries*
1. 1980-81	617
2. 1981-82	685
3. 1982-83	600
4. 1983-84	711
5. 1984-85	583
6. 1985-86	487
7. 1986-87	1070
8. 1987-88	373

Bio-Gas : The Panchayat Union has assisted 211 applicants with loan and subsidy to install bio-gas plants. The year wise details follow:-

Year	*Total amount granted as loan (including Subsidy)* IN RUPEES	*Total number of* beneficiaries
1982-83	20,335	9
1983-84	25,575	13
1984-85	53,680	22
1985-86	1,54,490	57
1986-87	1,30,070	50
1987-88	1.55,650	60

TRYSEM : The Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment Scheme (TRYSEM) also has been implemented through this Panchayat Union.

N.R.E.P. : Under the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, employment opportunities were provided and the man-power created. The services of the rural folks so employed, have been utilised, for raising social forests.

The following Table furnishes the details about the implementation of the N.R.E.P. in the Panchayat Union :-

Year	*Amount spent* (IN RUPEES)	*Total No.of works executed*
1981-82	-NA-	161
1982-83	11,12,616	128
1983-84	-NA-	123
1984-85	14,69,941	224
1985-86	16,84,938	87
1986-87	7,91,773	80
1987-88	6,14,030	103

Works executed under this programme, include the laying of roads, digging of wells, construction of maternity and child welfare centres, school buildings, Community Recreation Centres, Public Conveniences, group houses etc.

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme : This Programme was introduced in this Panchayat Union in the year 1984-85. Since then 69 group houses, and 44 public conveniences have been constructed under this programme, besides laying a road. The year wise details are as given below :–

Year	*Total amount spent* IN RUPEES	*Total No.of works executed*
1984-85	2,94,000.00	49
1985-86	—	—
1986-87	1,65,842.00	32
1987-88	91,160.80	33

Social Forestry : The scheme of raising social forests was introduced in this union in 1984-85. During this year 19700 trees were planted. Though there was no new plantation during 1985-86, the new additions were 210 plants in 1986-87. In 1987-88, along the Peruvilai-Karavilai Channel, 13,000 subabul were planted. In the same year, 1200 neem plants were planted along the Ethamozhi-Puthalam road to a distance of 11 km. In the College Ground of Sivanthi Adhithanar College, 210 jack

plants, 350 myrobalan plants and 800 neem trees were also planted in a total area of 4 hectares. In the Panchayat Union Office premises 160 jack plants 1,000 subabul and 450 other farm plants were raised in the year 1987-88 itself.

Street Lights : The streets of the village panchayats are well lit. The details of street lights provided in the panchayats are as follows :-

Name of the Village Panchayats	*No.of street lights Provided*
1. Northsoorankudy	64
2. Melakrishnanpudur	47
3. Kesavanputhanthurai	47
4. Athikkattuvilai	33
5. Elluvilai	92
6. Parakkai	104
7. Pallanthurai	56
8. Gandipuram	109
9. Kanniyakulam	95
10.Putheri	85
11. Peruvilai	80
12. Manakudy	63

Water Supply :- The details of the sources of water supply in the Village panchayats of the union are given below :

Sl.No. (1)	*Name of the Village panchayats* (2)	*Open wells* (3)	*Hand Pumps* (4)	*Power Pumps* (5)
1.	Authikattuvilai	2	4	3
2.	Eluvilai	2	5	2
3.	Gandhipuram	1	3	1
4.	Kesavanputhenthurai	2	-	4
5.	Kaniyakulam	2	5	1
6.	Melakrishnanputhur	2	2	2
7.	Manakudy	2	-	3
8.	North Soorankudy	-	3	1

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
9.	Pallanthurai	3	3	4
10.	Parakkai	4	3	2
11.	Peruvilai	5	2	-
12.	Other Source: one			

Roads : This Panchayat Union maintains ordinary roads of all categories to the total length of 84.30 km. and coastal roads of 3.80 km. The village panchayats of this union maintain ordinary roads to the total length of 38.07 km. and coastal roads of 7.01. km.

Annual Income : The annual income of the Panchayat Union from 1964-65 to 1985-86 were as follows:-

Year (1)	*Income* (IN RUPEES) (2)
1964-65	3,79,449.74
1965-66	3,34.956.67
1966-67	3,79,845.47
1967-68	3,65,885.57
1968-69	3,98,456.65
1969-70	4,25,570.62
1970-71	4,97,194.35
1971-72	7,50,118.30
1972-73	6,93,714.79
1973-74	7,07,450.40
1974-75	11,85,429.45
1975-76	12,45,225.63
1976-77	10,50,561.43
1977-78	10,63,147.88
1978-79	25,36,458.08
1979-80	14,96,534.04
1980-81	11,33,624.25
1981-82	26,37,249.83

(1)	(2)
1982-83	31,05,756.34
1983-84	29,79,853.15
1984-85	22,04,285.24
1985-86	46,91,573.18

Besides the Chairman of the Panchayat Union, the Panchayat Union Council consists of nineteen members who are presidents of panchayats, two nominated members and six co-opted members.

9. Killiyoor Panchayat Union :[38] The Constituent bodies of Killiyoor Panchayat Union consist of six town panchayats and eight village panchayats. The headquarters of the Panchayat Union is located at Tholayavattai of Vilavancode taluk. It belongs to Padhmanabhapuram Development Division.

Almost all the panchayats except three of this Union, have protected water supply facilities through overhead tanks. There are 23 overhead tanks, 127 hand pumps and 238 open wells in this Union and these are maintained by the respective panchayats. This panchayat union maintains roads to the total length of 129.20 km.

From the year 1981-82, Integrated Rural Development Programme has been implemented in this Union. Following is the number of beneficiaries every year from the inception of the programme.

Year	*No.of beneficiaries*
1981-82	755
1982-83	717
1983-84	803
1984-85	622
1985-86	422
1986-87	1158

Self-sufficiency Scheme is under implementation in the Union, since 1980-81 and so far the achievements through the scheme are ten link roads to the total length of 16.6 km. at the cost of Rs.32,8000. construction of a minor bridge at the cost of Rs.46,000, minor Irrigation works numbering 30 at the cost of Rs.2,98,000 and three maternity centres, at the cost of Rs.12,000.

The Union has executed a number of works under the National Rural Employment Programme, since 1981-82. The details of the number of works executed and expenditure incurred every year since 1981-82 are given below:-

Year	*No.of works executed*	*Total expenditure* (IN RUPEES)
1981-82	166	7,32,395.00
1982-83	155	18,31,903.00
1983-84	122	22,42,642.00
1984-85	146	22,51,419.00
1985-86	123	35,77,965.00
1986-87	75	19,81,333.00

The Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme is also being implemented in the Union. The Social Forests in the Union have been raised under the National Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme.

The Panchayat Union has also extended loan assistance to install Bio-gas plants since 1981-82. The details are as follows:-

Year	*No.of plants installed*
1981-82	9
1982-83	3
1983-84	3
1984-85	25
1985-86	26
1986-87	60

Besides these National Programmes, Massive Programme of assistance has also been implemented in this Union.

The details of annual income of the Panchayat Union since 1962-63 is as follows:-

Year	*Annual Income* (IN RUPEES)
1962-63	1,10,252.00
1963-64	1,21,424.74
1964-65	3,33,427.59
1965-66	3,13,965.22
1966-67	2,86,001.02
1967-68	3,11,605.46
1968-69	2,67,357.12
1969-70	1,76,414.73
1970-71	5,51,392.19
1971-72	6,78,888.26
1972-73	6,00,484.06
1973-74	4,88,480.89
1974-75	11,16,630.10
1975-76	7,35,478.95
1976-77	7,84,554.12
1977-78	16,34,248.00
1978-79	12,19,644.00
1979-80	12,38,449.70
1980-81	31,77,082.20
1981-82	24,36,045.29
1982-83	30,98,897.80
1983-84	20,28,749.04
1984-85	16,24,994.30
1985-86	24,31,006.40
1986-87	7,84,554.12

All the Village Panchayats in the Union are provided with street lights. The details are as follows:-

Name of the Panchayat	*No.of street lights provided*
Kollanchi	88
Mathicode	189
Midalam	208

Name of the Panchayat	*No.of street lights provided*
Mullenginavilai	115
Nattalam	96
Paloor	160
Thippramalai	63
Enayam-Puthenthurai	67

The Panchayat Union Council consists of 22 members. These include the presidents of the 14 town and village panchayats, three Adi- Dravida members, three Women members and two co-opted members.

KANNIYAKUMARI TOWNSHIP [39]

Kanniyakumari, where the three of the greatest seas of the world viz., the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea meet, is really a place of international tourist importance. As this area needed speedy development, a township committee was constituted for this town on 1st October 1965.[40] Usually such township committee will function under the chairmanship of the respective District Collector and the Government will appoint other members. At present the Township consists of eleven official and seven non-official members appointed by the Government.

The Committee now functioning was constituted for a period of three years which was due to expire on 19 March 84. The proposal sent to Government by the Director of Town Panchayats (Lr.No. 4651/84, dated 4 June 1984) for the Constitution of the new committee are pending consideration of the Government.

This township has been constituted at State level under the control of the Director of Town Panchayats who is the head of the Department of Townships. At district level, the District Collector is the Chairman of the township and he is assisted by the District Town Panchayat Officer and other committee members. The township office is staffed with an Executive Officer, a Township Engineer and a Overseer etc.

The average annual income of the township from all sources is Rs.16,85,800. The house tax has been levied in the township at the rate of 60 paise per every hundred rupees of the capital value of the building meant for residential purposes. The township administration is taking

efforts, with the available financial resources, to provide all basic amenities to the residents as well as floating population of the town.

Water supply : Being a coastal township the availability of sources for potable water within the town is rare. Hence water to the town is brought from the various sources and wells sunk outside the town and distributed through overhead tanks constructed in important points of the town.

Name of the Overhead tanks constructed	*Capacity in litres*
1. Othyalvilai (Two tank)	45,000
2. Anjukoottu vilai	1,20,000
3. North kundal	6,000
4. South Kundal (2 tanks)	45,000
5. Municipal OHT	1,59,000
6. New OHT Near Govt. Hospital	2,00,000
Total	5,75,000

The township has provided 84 public taps. Besides, water supply connections have been extended to 397 houses in the town.

Under the Drought Relief Programme, a new open well at Manatharanpudhur has been dug. Besides, the following open wells have been deepened:–

1 Paulkulam well, 2 Swaminathapuram well, 3 North Kundal Well and 4 Kumarisalaikulam well.

There are also three ring wells, the digging of which have been completed recently. The digging of a new open well at Maruthuvamalai is under completion. Besides, there are 22 open wells and 30 tube wells maintained by the township administration. The following is the annual maintenance cost of water supply to the town:-

Year	*Expenditure* (IN RUPEES.)
1984-85	13,500
1985-86	28,200
1986-87	74,200

Roads : The town ship is also maintaining roads to the length of 14.145 km. as detailed below :

Description of Roads		*Total length in Km.*
1. Black Topped		6.411
2. Metal Road		6.828
3. Gravelled road		0.906
	Total	14.145

The total number of roads and paths in the town are 29 and they are well maintained. The cost of maintenance of these roads during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 is Rs.1,91,200, Rs.2,29,446 and Rs.1,49,846 respectively.

Under Half Grant Scheme, during 1986-87 the township has received a sum of Rs.74,922 from Government to improve the existing roads. The Half Grant, along with an equal amount from the town ship funds has been utilised for black topping five roads of the town.

Street lights : The streets and roads of the town are lit with 51 Mercury Vapour lamps, 80 Sodium Vapour lamps, 31 double tube lights, 356 single tube lights and 12 other kinds of lights. Towards maintenance of these street lights the township has spent Rs.90,600 during 1984-85, Rs.90,903 during 1985-86 and Rs.97,662 during 1986-87. There is also a proposal to provide 25 tube lights in addition, in the outskirts of the town, and the Asst. Engineer, T.N.E.B. Kanniyakumari is at it.

Sanitation : Sanitation is looked after by 29 Sweepers working under the supervision of a Sanitary Supervisor and a Sanitary Inspector. The total length of the drains provided in the town is 4.624 km. An organised system or drainage has been provided in the town only in the year 1985. During the year 1985-86, the drainage was maintained at the cost of Rs.35,400 and in the following year (1986-87), the maintenance cost has risen up to Rs.51,500. This township is maintaining two "Pay and use" toilets.

Remunerative Enterprises : The township maintains three lodges and the income derived from them during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 was Rs.68,100, Rs.80420 and Rs.1,15,512 respectively.

The following is the annual income from the two 'pay and use'toilets maintained by the township:-

Year	*Income* (IN RUPEES)
1984-85	30,900
1985-86	46,200
1986-87	66,900

The township is maintaining a Bus-Parking station at the beach. It is no doubt convenient for parking the number of tourist buses coming to this sacred land every day. The fees collected from such buses amounted to Rs.3,399 in 1984-85, Rs.11,675 in 1985-86 and Rs.14,304 in 1986-87.

The township owns a building which was built to be rented for running a hotel and the annual rent it fetched for the current year (1987-88) is Rs.30,000. Besides, there are 25 shops owned by this township, which have been leased out and the lease amount is Rs.200 per shop per month. The office of the township is accommodated in a rented building.

Toll Gate : The right of collecting toll gate fee for the vehicles entering into this town is leased out every year. The lease fetched Rs.1,15,200 in 1985-86, Rs.2,15,000 during 1986-87 and Rs.1,62,200 during 1987-88.

Town Panchayats : Kanniyakumari can be termed as the most urbanised district in Tamil Nadu, for it has sixty six town panchayats and a township besides four municipalities. Of all the districts in Tamil Nadu, Kanniyakumari comparatively a smaller district comprises the highest number of town panchayats (i.e.) 66.

It may not be out of place to mention that prior to 3 March 1962, when the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1958 was extended to the district, the Panchayats in the district were functioning in accordance with the provisions of the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act, 1950. As per this Act, all the panchayats in the district were manned by full time Panchayat Officers and complementary staff. But, in rest of Tamil Nadu, only the Town Panchayats constituted under Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 had full time Executive Officers. Hence, when the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1958 was extended to the Panchayats of Kanniyakumari district repealing the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act 1950, all the 46

panchayats then existed were classified as town panchayats, and the posts of Panchayat Officers of erstwhile Panchayats were redesignated as Executive Officers.

As there were certain administrative inconveniences since there were only 46 panchayats, that too all were town panchayats, under the jurisdiction of nine panchayat unions, the 46 town panchayats were split and constituted into 64 town panchayats of various grades and 224 village panchayats, on 2nd August 1970. Then in December 1981, two more town panchayats were constituted amalgamating certain village panchayats, bringing the total number of Town panchayats in the district to 66.

Constitution of Town Panchayats :[41] Initially, Town Panchayats were constituted if the population and the annual income of Village Panchayat exceeded Rs.5000 and Rs.10,000 respectively. The monetary limit for the Constitution of Town Panchayats was raised to Rs.40,000 during 1972.

Classification of Town Panchayats[42]: The Town panchayats are classified as Second Grade, First Grade and Selection Grade, on the basis of their Annual income. If the annual income of a village panchayat exceeds Rs.10,000 it may be upgraded as a Second Grade town Panchayat. If the annual income of a Second Grade town panchayat exceeds Rs.40,000 it may be upgraded as a First Grade town panchayat. If the annual income of a First Grade town panchayat exceeds Rs.1,00,000 it may as well be accorded the status of Selection Grade. This monetary limit is prescribed in the Panchayat Manual, but in practice, the following monetary limit for the upgradation of a panchayat from one status to other is followed :–[42A]

Monetary limit approved	*Monetary limit adopted* (IN RUPEES.)
Grade-II – Rs.40,000	1.lakh
Grade-I – Rs.40,000 to one lakh	1.lakh
Selection Grade	2. lakhs and above

In Kanniyakumari district, there are ten Selection Grade Town Panchayats, forty nine First Grade town Panchayats and Seven Second Grade town

panchayats. Besides, there is "Kanniyakumari Townships" which is under the control of the Director of Town Panchayats, at the State level and the District Town Panchayat officer at the District level.

Administration of Town Panchayats[43] : Till 1981, Town panchayats were under the administrative and disciplinary control of the Director of Rural Development and Local Administration. A separate directorate for town panchayats was constituted as per G.O.Ms.No.828, RD & LA, dated 7 May 1981, with effect from 7 May 1981 to streamline the administration. Consequently, the State was divided into seven regions for this purpose. Each regional office was headed by a Regional Director of Town Panchayats. Under this set up, Kanniyakumari district came under the Regional Director, Tirunelveli.

During 1982-83, when Self-sufficiency Scheme was extended to the town panchayats, Government viewed that the regional administrative set up was not sufficient to implement the scheme in town panchayats. So, the district level set up was introduced. According to this set up, a District Town Panchayat Officer (in the cadre of DDO) has been appointed to each district having control over Town Panchayats in order to streamline the administration effectively and implement the various schemes of the Government in town Panchayats. He is also Ex-Officio Personal Assistant to the Collector (Town Panchayats) to assist the Collector in the town panchayat administration. When there was no elected body from 1979 to 1986, the Commissioners of the respective panchayat unions were made Special Officers of the town panchayats. This arrangement continued upto September 1984, - from which date, the District Town Panchayat Officers themselves acted as Special Officers of the Town Panchayats. After the Panchayat Elections were conducted in February 1986, the powers of Special Officers were withdrawn and the Presidents of the respective Town Panchayats assumed charge. Apart from the Presidents who are the non-official heads of the Town Panchayats, the day-to-day administration of the town panchayats is caried on by the Executive Officers, assisted by the ministerial conservancy and technical staff, and they continue to be under the administrative control of the District Town Panchayat Officer.

The names of Town Panchayats in Kanniyakumar District are listed below:–

TOWN PANCHAYATS IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT [44]

I SELECTION GRADE :–

1. Suchindrum
2. Aralvoymozhi
3. Thingalnagar (Monday market)
4. Manavalakurichi
5. Ponmani
6. Thirparappu
7. Kulasegharam
8. Kaliakkavilai
9. Puthukkadai
10. Karingal

II FIRST GRADE :–

1. Anjugramam
2. Agastiswaram
3. Azhagappapuram
4. Mylaudy
5. Marungoor
6. Kottaram
7. South Tamaraikulam
8. Theroor
9. Thazhakkudy
10. Azhakiapandipuram
11. Boothapandi
12. Dharmapuram
13. Ganapathipuram
14. Melasangarankuzhi
15. Rajakkamangalam
16. Asaripallam
17. Puthalam
18. Thengamputhur

19. Vellimalai
20. Villukkuri
21. Alloor
22. Reethapuram
23. Kallukuttam
24. Neyyoor
25. Vellichanthai
26. Eraniel
27. Kumarapuram
28. Kothanalloor
29. Thiruvithangode
30. Valvachagoshtam
31. Vilavoor
32. Attoor
33. Pechiparai
34. Thiruvattar
35. Kattathurai
36. Verkilambi
37. Palukal
38. Edaicode
39. Kadayal
40. Pacode
41. Arumanai
42. Vilathurai
43. Painkulam
44. Kollamcode
45. Ezhudesam
46. Nalloor
47. Killiyoor
48. Unnamalaikkadai
49. Pazhapallam

III. SECOND GRADE :-

1. Mulagumoodu
2. Nullivilai *
3. Thickanamcode *
4. Methukummal
5. Keezhkulam
6. Mandaickadu
7. Kappiarai

* Town Panchayats which are functioning in private buildings.

Functions of the Town Panchayats : The functions and duties of the town Panchayats are among other things, the provision of basic amenities to the tax-payers, such as drinking water supply, public conveniences, street lights, conservancy system of the town by regular clearing and upkeep, maintenance of the streets, proper drainages to drain out sewage water, prevention of mosquito breeding and other bacterial growth and inducting regular vaccination.

The town panchayats are also incharge of implementation of the State and Central Development Programmes.

Self-Sufficiency Scheme [45]: Self-Sufficiency Scheme is one of the important development scheme introduced in Town Panchayats in a phased manner. It has been extended to the town panchayats of Kanniyakumari district in three phases (i.e.) first phase during the year 1982-83 and the other two phases in the following years viz. 1983-84 and 1984-85. The types of works executed under this scheme are laying of link roads and pathways to Adi-Dravidars, provision of cremation and burial grounds, construction of culverts, drainages, water supply schemes, Dhobi khanas etc. The main objective of the scheme is to make the town/village self sufficient with regard to basic needs of the general public. Under the first phase of the Self-sufficiency Scheme, link roads were laid to the total length of 30.7 km. at the cost of Rs.9,960 lakhs and 64 culverts were constructed at the cost of Rs.7.63 lakhs in Town Panchayats. Drainages were provided to the total length of 1.4 km. at the cost of Rs.2.91 lakhs. A Dhobi-khana was provided at the cost of Rs.0.29 lakh. Street lights were provided at the cost of Rs. 0.40 lakh. Under the second phase of the scheme, 35 works of water supply at the

cost of Rs.9.98 lakhs were completed. Link roads to the total length of 93 km. at the cost of 16.97 lakhs of rupees were laid, sixty five culverts at the cost of Rs.6.92 lakhs were constructed and three Dhobikhanas and a pathway to burial grounds meant for Adi-Dravidars were laid down at the cost of Rs.0.68 lakh and 0.90 lakh respectively.

The following is the achievement in the third phase of the Self-Sufficiency Scheme in the town panchayats, noted against each :-

Sl. No.	*Description of the works*	*No.of works*	*Total amount Spent* (RS. IN LAKHS)
1.	Water Supply	95	37.56
2.	Link road	358	64.05
3.	Culverts	92	13.15
4.	Drainage	137	24.99
5.	Pathway to the burial grounds for Adi dravidars	5	1.15
6.	Dhobikhana	2	0.52
7.	Street lights	17	—

Integrated Urban Development Programme :–[46] One of the ingredients of the Seventh Five Year Plan is the Integrated Urban Development Programme (IUDP). Under this programme, grants and funds have been extended by the Government to the Town Panchayats to improve the towns by constructing bus stand, market etc. wherever necessary. The Integrated Urban Development Programme, extended in four town panchayats and the works under the programme have been entrusted to the Public Works Department. The works are under execution. The details are as follows :–

Sl.No.	*Name of the Town Panchayats*	*Description of works under execution*	*Amount sanctioned* RS. IN LAKHS
1.	Karungal	Bus stand	4.60
2.	Kulasekaram	Market	5.60
3.	Kaliyakkavilai	Bustand	4.60
4.	Anjugramam	Bus stand	2.72

National Rural Employment Programme :[47] The NREP has been extended by the Government, to the town panchayats, bearing in mind

that the rural folks are more in number in these areas. The potentiality of the unemployed youths in the localities have been tapped to improve the roads, to construct culverts and to desilt the tanks and wells. During the year 1985-86, a sum of Rs.16.90 lakhs was allotted to implement the NREP in the following Town Panchayats, Ganapathipuram Kadaya, Kottaram, Nallur, Pechiparai, Mandaikadu and Mulugumoodu. During 1986-87 the total amount allotted under this programme, to the town panchayats in the district was Rs.8.91 lakhs.

In the year 1987-88, the NREP was extended to the following Town Panchayats, viz. Azhahiapandiapuram, Mylady, Thingalnagar, Kothanallur, Thirparappu, Puthalam, Edaicodu, Vilathurai and Pallapallam. The amount sanctioned under the programme, was Rs.17.68 lakhs.

In the current year (1988-89) the Government have allotted Rs.13.72 lakhs to implement the NREP in the following Town Panchayats of this district viz. Vellichandhai, Nullivilai, Kappiarai, Valvachagottam, Kollencode, Methukummal, Palugal, Keezhkulam and Killiyoor of this district.

Integrated Development of Temple Town : [47] Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Temple town, two town panchayats of the district (i.e.) Suchindrum and Mandaikadu have been benefited. In Suchindrum, six works of dustless surfacing of roads, have been executed besides one pay and use toilet and bathing ghats on the river banks have been provided. In Mandaikadu, 11 water supply works (extension of pipe lines) have been executed and a lodge with shops has been constructed. Eight sodium vapour lamps also have been provided.

Low Cost Sanitation :[48] Mandaikadu town panchayat has been benefited by the scheme of providing low cost sanitation. The scheme is to encourage the general public to have their own latrines at a low cost. Forty percent of the expenditure is borne by the UNICEF and forty percent is extended by the Government by way of free grant; the individual (i.e.) the beneficiary who owns the latrine, has to bear only 20 per cent of the total cost involved in the construction of latrine. The scheme was executed in the year 1986-87 at the total of Rs.12.50 lakhs and total number of beneficiaries were 125.

Township Development Scheme :[49] Kanniyakumari township was sanctioned an amount of Rs.10.50 lakhs by the Government, to improve the town. The amount was utilised by the township to construct a children

park at the cost of Rs.1.99 lakhs, a 'pay and use' latrine at the cost of Rs.2.25 lakhs, a Handicrafts goods market and a lodge at the cost of Rs.7.25 lakhs. Thus, the expenditure so far incurred is Rs.11.49 lakhs. The remaining amount of Rs.7.01 lakhs in the grant, has been diverted to build a tourist complex, which is under execution.

Water Supply : [50] Fifty six of the sixty townpanchayats in the district are provided with overhead tanks for the supply of drinking water. The following table shows the details of the sources of the water supply in Town Panchayats.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number of Open wells	Overhead Tanks	Ground Level Reservoir	Power Pump	Hand Pump	Public Taps	House Connection Domestic	House Connection Non Domestic
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1	Anjugramam ..	26	7	–	7	14	75	14	–
2	Agasthiswaram ..	20	7	1	4	24	68	139	1
3	Azhahappapuram ..	7	2	–	2	7	27	56	–
4	Sucindram ..	14	–	–	–	3	63	394	6
5	Mylaudy ..	14	3	–	4	11	36	280	–
6	Marungoor ..	13	6	4	7	13	72	72	–
7	Kottaram ..	15	4	1	4	16	–	136	–
8	Then Thamaraikulam ..	14	9	–	7	12	79	298	2
9	Therur ..	23	2	–	3	11	28	60	1
10	Thazhakkudi ..	8	6	1	4	7	87	67	–
11	Azhakiapandiapuram ..	18	4	–	3	6	57	–	–
12	Aralvoimozhi ..	54	7	–	5	28	128	158	–
13	Bhoothapandi ..	10	6	1	5	10	42	464	18

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
14	Dharmapuram ..	17	15	6	21	13	–	–	–
15	Ganapathipuram ..	14	6	3	8	15	32	–	–
16	Melasankarankuzhi ..	26	7	1	7	6	71	164	–
17	Rajakkamangalam ..	16	7	–	7	6	9	–	240
18	Asaripallam ..	9	6	–	7	14	72	43	–
19	Puthalam ..	10	8	–	9	9	–	162	–
20	Thengampauthur ..	8	12	2	14	11	151	181	4
21	Thingalnagar ..	14	4	–	3	10	57	16	–
22	Mandaikadu ..	24	2	–	2	10	13	–	–
23	Vellimalai ..	29	4	2	7	12	108	33	–
24	Villukkuri ..	32	2	–	3	8	–	–	–
25	Alur ..	20	8	–	4	13	–	38	–
26	Manavalakurichi ..	14	2	–	2	–	49	–	–
27	Reethapuram ..	29	5	–	4	5	–	28	–
28	Kallukkoottam ..	29	9	–	8	5	–	–	–
29	Neyyoor ..	25	3	–	3	13	–	–	–
30	Vellichandhai ..	21	3	1	2	–	–	–	–
31	Eraniel ..	21	2	1	–	13	58	36	–
32	Kumarapuram ..	21	4	1	5	7	37	–	–

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
33	Kothanallur ..	–	1	1	2	25	–	–	–
34	Mulagumoodu ..	54	4	1	6	9	–	–	–
35	Allivilai ..	26	2	–	2	16	35	–	–
36	Thiruvidhankodu ..	18	–	–	–	23	–	–	–
37	Kappiari ..	29	4	–	2	13	–	12	–
38	Valvachakottam ..	35	2	–	2	9	–	–	–
39	Vilavoor ..	25	1	2	3	12	–	–	–
40	Thikkannankodu ..	36	1	–	1	12	–	–	–
41	Athur ..	14	2	1	3	5	40	–	40
42	Ponmanai ..	18	3	–	2	5	–	–	–
43	Pechipparai ..	12	–	–	–	3	–	–	–
44	Thirparappu ..	28	2	1	–	–	–	–	–
45	Thiruvattar ..	35	3	–	–	18	–	39	..
46	Verkilampi ..	50	4	–	4	17	24	–	–
47	Kattathurai ..	13	2	–	2	16	20	–	–
48	Kulasekaram ..	17	1	–	1	6	–	–	–
49	Palukal ..	25	2	–	–	14	–	–	–
50	Edaikodu ..	54	3	–	3	14	–	–	–
51	Kadaiyal ..	28	–	–	–	11	–	–	–

(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
52	Pacodu	..	12	–	–	–	8	–	–	–
53	Kaliyakkavilai	..	49	4	–	4	12	40	–	–
54	Arumanai	..	18	1	–	1	6	48	–	–
55	Vilathurai	..	47	–	–	–	12	–	–	–
56	Pudukkadai	..	19	4	–	2	3	–	260	15
57	Panikulam	..	34	–	1	–	16	–	–	–
58	Medhukummal	..	28	–	–	–	22	–	–	–
59	Kollankodu	..	35	1	–	1	5	19	–	–
60	Ezhuthesam	..	25	6	–	6	5	–	–	–
61	Palapallam	..	42	4	–	4	14	–	–	–
62	Nalloor	..	37	–	1	–	5	12	–	–
63	Killiyoor	..	49	3	–	2	9	–	–	–
64	Karungal	..	35	2	2	3	–	–	–	–
65	Keezhkulam	..	23	3	–	3	11	–	–	–
66	Unnamalaikadai	..	33	–	–	–	6	–	–	–
	Total	..	1661	233	35	233	698	1687	3320	90

* There are also 21 Automatic Water Tanks in this Town Panchayat.
Report from the District Town Panchayat Officer, Kanniyakumari district dated 28 September 1988.

Street Lights : Provision of street lights is one of the important public amenities to be provided by the panchayats. The following are the details of the provision of street lights in the Town panchayats of the district :–

(a) Sodium Vapour and Mercury Lamps –

Sl.No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total No.of Sodium vapour lamps*	*Total No.of Mercury lamps*
1.	Suchindrum	9	2
2.	Kottaram	1	3
3.	Azhakiapandiapuram	–	20
4.	Aralvoimozhi	7	1
5.	Boothapandi	6	7
6.	Dharmapuram	–	2
7.	Rajakkamangalam	3	1
8.	Asaripallam	9	–
9	Thingalnagar	–	27
10.	Mandaikkadu	8	–
11.	Manavalakurichi	–	3
12.	Vellichandhai	–	4
13.	Eraniel	–	1
14.	Nullivilai	–	3
15.	Kattathurai	–	2
16.	Kulasekaram	10	7
17.	Methukummal	1	–
18.	Karungal	8	–
19.	Unnamalaikadai	–	1
20.	Villukkuri	5	15
21.	Valvachakottam	–	2

(b) Tube lights and other ordinary bulbs –

Sl.No	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number of Tube Lights		Ordinary bulbs
		(Set containing 4 bulbs)	(Set containing 2 bulbs)	
1.	Anjugramam	179	–	–
2.	Agasthiswaram	259	–	–
3.	Azhahappapuram	153	–	–
4.	Suchindrum	225	–	–
5.	Mylaudy	215	–	–
6.	Marungoor	252	–	–
7.	Kottaram	208	2	–
8.	Then Thamaraikulam	212	–	–
9.	Therur	192	–	–
10.	Thazhakkudi	232	–	–
11.	Azhakiapandiapuram	247	–	–
12.	Aralvoimozhi	236	79	–
13.	Boothapandi	309	–	–
14.	Dharmapuram	416	–	–
15.	Ganapathipuram	247	–	–
16.	Melasankarankuzh	282	–	1
17.	Rajakkamangalam	334	–	–
18.	Asaripallam	230	–	–
19.	Puthalam	146	–	–
20.	Thengamputhur	245	–	–
21.	Thingalnagar	387	31	–
22.	Mandaikkadu	210	–	–
23.	Vellimalai	327	–	–
24.	Villukkuri	265	–	–
25.	Aloor	244	–	–
26.	Manavalakurichi	180	30	–
27.	Reethapuram	169	–	–

Sl.No	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number of Tube Lights		Ordinary bulbs
		(Set containing 4 bulbs)	(Set containing 2 bulbs)	
28.	Kallukootam	375	–	–
29.	Neyyoor	354	–	–
30.	Vellichandhai	260	–	–
31.	Eraniel	257	–	–
32.	Kumarapuram	295	–	–
33.	Kothanallur	194	–	–
34.	Mulagumoodu	354	–	–
35.	Nullivilai	254	–	–
36.	Thiruvithankodu	156	134	–
37.	Kappiarai	202	–	–
38.	Valvachakkottam	132	–	–
39.	Vilavoor	276	–	–
40.	Thikkanamkodu	270	–	–
41.	Athoor	203	–	–
42.	Ponmanai	179	–	–
43.	Pechiparai	135	–	–
44.	Thirparappu	291	–	–
45.	Thiruvattar	351	–	–
46.	Verkilampi	405	9	–
47.	Kattathurai	273	–	–
48.	Kulasekaram	436	1	8
49.	Palukal	196	–	–
50.	Edaikodu	463	–	–
51.	Kadayal	513	–	–
52.	Pacode	218	–	–
53.	Kaliyakkavilai	197	–	–
54.	Arumanai	209	–	–

Sl.No	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number of Tube Lights		Ordinary bulbs
		(Set containing 4 bulbs)	(Set containing 2 bulbs)	
55.	Vilathurai	57	–	115
56.	Pudukkadai	146	–	–
57.	Panikulam	126	–	–
58.	Medhukummal	163	–	21
59.	Kollencode	150	–	169
60.	Ezhudhesam	–	124	280
61.	Palapallam	297	–	–
62.	Nalloor	383	–	–
63.	Killiyoor	381	–	–
64.	Karungal	247	–	–
65.	Kilkulam	221	–	–
66.	Unnamalaikadai	265	–	37
	Total	16489	430	683

Public Conveniences : The following thirty five town panchayats in the district have extended the facility of public conveniences to the public, as noted against each :

Sl.No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total No.of public conveniences
1.	Agasthiswaram	1
2.	Azhahappapuram	1
3.	Suchindrum	3
4.	Mylaudy	5
5.	Marungur	3
6.	Kottaram	2
7.	Thenthamarikulam	1
8.	Therur	1
9.	Thazhakkudi	1
10.	Aralvoimozhi	3

Sl.No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total No.of public conveniences
11.	Boothapandi	1
12.	Thingalnagar	2
13.	Villukkuri	1
14.	Aloor	2
15.	Kallukoottam	1
16.	Eraniel	3
17.	Kumarapuram	1
18.	Kothanallur	1
19.	Kappiarai	1
20.	Valvachakottm	1
21.	Athoor	1
22.	Pechipparai	1
23.	Thirparappu	2
24.	Thiruvattar	2
25.	Verkilampi	1
26.	Kulasekaram	2
27.	Palukal	1
28.	Kadayal	1
29.	Kaliakkavilai	2
30.	Pudukkadi	3
31.	Nalloor	2
32.	Killiyoor	1
33.	Karungal	1
34.	Kizhkulam	1

Roads : Needless to say that it is one of the obligatory duties of the panchayats to provide and develop the communication facilities in the village or town for the convinence of the public. Details of roads of various types maintained by the Town Panchayats are as follows :–

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Town Panchayat (2)	Total length of Roads in K.M. Cement (3)	Black Topped (4)	Metalled (5)	Gravelled (6)	Mud (7)
1	Anjugramam ..	–	–	13.75	5.85	5.35
2	Agasthiswaram ..	–	2.60	13.10	4.00	8.90
3	Azhahappapuram ..	0.30	1.61	5.81	0.54	1.46
4	Suchindrum ..	1.67	50.87	0.80	0.62	2.06
5	Mylaudy ..	–	0.55	6.51	–	3.03
6	Marungoor ..	–	–	1.06	1.37	5.14
7	Kottaram ..	0.06	1.88	3.09	2.76	–
8	Thenthamaraikkulam ..	–	–	3.10	–	8.30
9	Theroor ..	0.26	0.65	5.03	1.34	2.35
10	Thazhakkudi ..	–	0.70	5.05	0.15	0.15
11	Azhakiapandiapuram ..	0.736	–	1.13	0.16	2.89
12	Aralvoimozhi ..	5.28	2.20	4.20	5.60	21.51
13	Boothapandi ..	0.96	–	1.50	0.50	3.30
14	Dharmapuram ..	–	1.30	11.10	–	5.40
15	Ganabathipuram ..	–	–	–	8.00	5.00
16	Melasankarankuzhi ..	–	–	6.66	–	9.13
17	Rajakkamangalam ..	–	0.50	10.40	0.48	–

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
18	Asaripallam ..	–	0.40	8.00	0.28	6.60
19	Puthalam ..	–	1.60	10.44	1.43	–
20	Thengampudur ..	...	1.60	9.53	1.95	–
21	Thingalnagar ..	0.30	4.85	7.00	–	10.30
22	Mandaikkadu ..	–	–	–	8.00	12.00
23	Vellimalai ..	–	–	10.50	–	–
24	Villukkuri ..	–	0.60	4.66	12.55	2.20
25	Aloor ..	–	–	2.60	2.50	6.85
26	Manavalakurichi ..	–	2.70	1.40	3.40	4.00
27	Reethapuram ..	–	–	14.40	–	25.30
28	Kallukkoottam ..	–	2.60	17.48	–	25.75
29	Neyyoor ..	–	2.30	5.80	–	11.70
30	Veelichandhai ..	–	2.40	3.40	2.00	1.60
31	Eraniel ..	–	0.40	10.8	0.50	1.98
32	Kumarapuram ..	–	0.50	–	1.20	12.70
33	Kothanallur ..	–	–	2.36	–	0.32
34	Mulagumoodu ..	–	–	4.60	–	5.80
35	Nullivilai ..	–	–	2.00	–	5.84
36	Thiruvidhankodu ..	0.15	1.22	1.47	–	4.65

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
37	Kappiarai	—	2.14	2.79	—	6.93
38	Valvachakkottam	—	—	5.25	—	9.02
39	Vilavoor	—	1.00	3.50	—	6.75
40	Thikkanamkodu	—	—	3.33	—	8.33
41	Athoor	—	1.20	3.80	—	9.90
42	Ponmanai	—	—	3.04	—	13.00
43	Pechiparai	—	—	—	—	—
44	Thirparappu	—	0.40	5.60	—	17.50
45	Thirvattar	—	—	5.02	—	8.06
46	Verkilambi	—	0.60	6.20	—	10.70
47	Kattathurai	—	—	1.20	—	4.80
48	Kulasekaram	0.49	1.60	7.80	—	—
49	Palugal	—	—	10.20	—	18.97
50	Edaikodu	—	—	5.40	—	9.30
51	Kadayal	—	1.00	8.85	26.00	—
52	Pacode	—	—	0.80	—	8.50
53	Kaliyakkavilai	—	—	10.01	—	1.78
54	Arumanai	—	—	2.06	—	11.06
55	Vilathurai	—	—	0.90	—	0.80

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
56	Pudukkadai ..	–	–	–	3.00	5.00
57	Painkülam ..	–	–	2.60	–	2.20
58	Medhukummal ..	–	–	11.70	–	0.90
59	Kollencode ..	–	–	–	–	7.60
60	Ezhuthesam ..	–	–	10.20	–	9.40
61	Palapallam ..	–	1.20	9.80	–	14.40
62	Nalloor ..	–	–	6.70	7.40	–
63	Killiyoor ..	–	–	11.95	–	3.85
64	Karungal ..	–	5.20	16.20	7.20	1.10
65	Keezhkulam ..	–	–	10.30	–	2.20
66	Unnamalaikadai ..	–	–	0.50	–	10.80

Remunerative Enterprises : Four Town Panchayats of the district maintain bus stands, constructed under I.U.D.P. They are Thingalnagar, Thiruvattar, Kaliakkavilai and Karungal. Fees are collected from the buses which are plied from or passing through these bus stands.

The following fourteen town panchayats maintain markets as noted against each :-

Sl.No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total No. of markets*
1.	Azhahappapuram	1
2.	Thenthamaraikulam	1
3.	Aralvoimozhi	5
4.	Boothapandi	2
5.	Manavalakurichi	1
6.	Kallukkottam	1
7.	Kodhanallur	1
8.	Athoor	1
9.	Kulasekaram	27
10	Palugal	1
11.	Vilathurai	1
12.	Pudukkadai	1
13.	Ezhuthesam	2
14.	Thiruvattar	1
	Total	46

Shandies : Weekly shandies are there in the following Town Panchayats :-

Sl. No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total Number of shandies*
1.	Anjugramam	1
2.	Mylaudy	1
3.	Aralvoimozhi	1
4.	Asaripallam	1
5.	Thingalnagar	1
6.	Vellichandhai	1

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number of shandies
7.	Athoor	1
8.	Thirparappu	2
9.	Verkilampi	2
10.	Kattathurai	1
11.	Kulasekaram	1
12.	Edaikodu	1
13.	Arumanai	1
14.	Kaliyakkavilai	1
15.	Pynkulam	1
16.	Medhukummal	1
17.	Kollenkodu	1
18.	Killiyoor	1
19.	Karungal	1
20.	Kilkulam	1
	Total	22

Drainage : 38 Town Panchayats maintain drainage along the important roads in the towns. The details follow :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total length of Drainage in km.
1.	Anjugramam	4.50
2.	Agasthiswaram	0.23
3.	Azhahappapuram	3.16
4.	Suchindrum	7.20
5.	Mylaudy	6.00
6.	Marungoor	1.00
7.	Kottaram	1.50
8.	Therur	2.92
9	Thazhakkudi	3.16
10	Azhakiapandiapuram	3.00
1	Boothapandi	3.30

Sl. No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total Number of Shandies*
12.	Melasankarankuzhi	0.32
13.	Rajakkamangalam	10.39
14.	Asaripallam	02.00
15.	Thengamputhur	00.20
16.	Thingalnagar	02.01
17.	Mandaikkadu	00.30
18.	Vellimalai	00.50
19.	Villukkuri	00.88
20.	Aloor	01.25
21.	Manavalakurichi	00.50
22.	Reethapuram	08.00
23.	Neyyoor	01.00
24.	Vellichandhai	01.00
25.	Kothanallur	00.10
26.	Thiruvidhankodu	05.00
27.	Kappiarai	0.80
28.	Vilavoor	00.10
29.	Athoor	00.50
30.	Thirparappu	01.60
31.	Kattathurai	00.50
32.	Palugal	00.20
33.	Kadayal	00.05
34.	Arumanai	02.00
35.	Puthukkadai	01.50
36.	Pynkulam	00.10
37.	Ezhuthesam	00.50
38.	Karungal	00.40

Sources of Income : House tax, meter tax, water tax, vehicle tax and portion of the entertainment tax collected within the jurisdiction of the

Town Panchayat area are the main sources of income of the Town Panchayats.

In the following towns there are theatres :–

Sl. No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total No of Theatres*
1.	Suchindrum	1
2.	Mylaudy	1
3.	Kottaram	1
4.	Boothapandi	1
5.	Dharmapuram	1
6.	Thengamputhur	1
7.	Thingalnagar	1
8.	• Kulasekaram	2
9.	Arumanai	1
10.	Pudhukkadai	1
11.	Nalloor	1
12.	Karungal	1

Miscellaneous : To keep the people well informed of the day to day happenings in the country and also to provide recreation, radio sets have been installed by some of the Town Panchayats. There are also reading rooms in the Town maintained by the Town Panchayats and voluntary service agencies. The details are as follows :–

Sl. No.	*Name of the Town Panchayat*	*Total number of radio sets*	*Total number of reading rooms*
1.	Anjugramam	9	–
2.	Agasthiswaram	8	9
3.	Azhahappapuram	4	4
4.	Suchindram	9	5
5.	Mylaudy	7	–
6.	Marungoor	13	–
7.	Kottaram	3	8

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total number of radio sets	Total number of reading rooms
8.	Thenthamaraikulam	8	8
9.	Therur	9	7
10.	Thazhakudi	7	4
11.	Aralvoimozhi	14	1
12.	Boothapandi	21	4
13.	Dharmapuram	11	4
14.	Ganabathipuram	6	2
15.	Melasankarankuzhi	7	7
16.	Rajakkamangalam	8	5
17.	Asaripallam	12	6
18.	Puthalam	4	–
19.	Thengamputhur	12	–
20.	Thingalnagar	7	1
21.	Mandaikadu	–	1
22.	Vellimalai	17	–
23.	Villukkuri	9	–
24.	Manavalakurichi	3	–
25.	Reethapuram	4	–
26.	Kallukkoottam	5	–
27.	Neyyoor	5	2
28.	Vellichandhai	–	2
29.	Eraniel	11	–
30.	Kumarapuram	3	–
31.	Kothanallur	3	2
32.	Mulagumoodu	8	8
33.	Nullivilai	–	2
34.	Thirvidhankodu	4	2
35.	Kappiarai	9	–
36.	Valvachakottam	2	–
37.	Vilavoor	–	2
38.	Thikkanamkodu	12	–

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat	Total Number Of radio sets	Total number of reading rooms
39.	Athoor	4	1
40.	Ponmanai	7	–
41.	Pechipparrai	3	2
42.	Thirparappu	7	1
43.	Thiruvattar	2	–
44.	Verkilambi	15	1
45.	Kattathurai	4	–
46.	Kulasekaram	7	1
47.	Palugal	6	–
48.	Edaikodu	–	1
49.	Kadayal	24	–
50.	Pacode	17	1
51.	Kaliyakkavilai	6	1
52.	Arumanai	1	1
53.	Vilathurai	6	1
54.	Pudukkadai	7	1
55.	Painkulam	6	1
56.	Kollenkodu	1	–
57.	Ezhuthesam	4	6
58.	Palappallam	11	–
59.	Nalloor	15	5
60.	Killiyoor	4	–
61.	Karungal	9	1
62.	Kilkulam	6	–
63.	Unnamalaikadai	17	5

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CHAPTER – 15

EDUCATION

Education in modern sense, means the systematic instruction in a language or languages, trades, arts, etc. which subsequently results in the development of characters and mental powers. The perfection of the growth of education in a language or region may be scaled by taking into account the production of literature in such language or in the region. The ancient-Tamil Nadu which included the dominions of the Cheras, Cholas and the Pandyas, attained the literary perfection as early as in the Sangam Age. (First three centuries of Christian Era). Despite many controversies about the age of Sangam, the most accepted view is that the Tamil Sangams were held between first century A.D. and third century A.D.[1]

The Tamil Sangams were patronised by the Pandyas bounteously and according to the exponents of the Lemurian Theory, the southern most border of India was still farther south, where existed. Then Madurai (South Madurai) and Kapatapuram, the venues of the first and second Tamil Sangams respectively. Hence, the seats of the first two Tamil Sangams were held in the lost Kumari Kandam and the present Kanniyakumari District is the remnant of the past Kumari Kandam of which a sizable portion was lost to the engulfing seas.

So long as the Lemurian Theory and the holding of Tamil Sangam in the lost continent are true, it is certain that the history of the Tamil language and literature should commence from Kanniyakumari.

Agasthiyar : Agasthiyar, the dwarf sage who adorned the first Tamil Sangam held in South Madurai, a portion of the lost continent of Kumari, was the author of Agathiyam, an authoritative grammar of Tamil. The life of this sage had many associations with the district. It is said that the saint dwelt in the Pothigai hill. A village near Kanniyakumari is called after his name as Agasthiswaram.

Tholkappiar : Tholkappiar is considered to be the chief disciple of sage Agasthya. He was a prominent scholar who took part in the second Tamil Sangam and his work is Tholkappiam which literally means 'ancient epic. It is the greatest, grandest and most ancient Tamil grammar work since the work of Agasthiyar is not available. Tholkappiar is believed to have lived in the present Kanniyakumari district.

It is said by Panampaaranar, a commentator on Tholkappiam, that the work was brought before the assembly in the Court of Nilan Tharu Thiruvin Pandyan under the chairmanship of Athankottu Asan for criticism and issuing imprimatur. It is interesting to note that Athankodu is a village in Vilavankodu Taluk of Kanniyakumari district and Kappikkadu is another village near Athankodu. The word Kappikkadu is derived from Kappiyakudi, which means the domicile of Tholkappiar. The word 'Kappiyakudi' is mentioned in Silappathikaram.[2] Hence, it is evident that both Tholkappiar and Athankottu Asan, the two eminent Tamil scholars of second Tamil Sangam belonged to the district.[3]

Thiruvalluvar : It is said that *Thiruvalluvar*, the author of *Thirukkural* which is regarded as the Bible of the Tamils, was born in Thirunayanarkurichi, near Muttam in Kanniyakumari district.[4] This theory is ascribed on the basis of many evidences, most of them are circumstantial including that the existence of names like Valluva nadu and the corruption of Valluvankodu into Vilavankodu and the mention of Thiruvalluvar as the pivot of punal Koodal in Thiruvalluvamalai etc.

But it should also be remembered here that the publishers of the Parimelazhkar Commentary on Thirukkural (1953) has said that the questions of who Valluvar was, which sect he belonged to, which period he lived, what his birth place was and which religion he followed are not answered authentically. There is also a view that the birth place of Valluvar was Mylapore in Madras. Hence, this is a subject which needs further research.

Avvaiyar : Avvaiyar, a woman bard of yore had many associations with Nanjilnadu, the part and parcel of present Kanniyakumari district. Unlike in other parts of the State, there are Shrines of Avvaiyar in the district. She sang in the praise of Nanjil Valluvan, a ruler of Nanjil Nadu. The Avvai worship is considered as a separate cult in the Vilavankodu area of the district. It is locally known as "Avvai Viratham" (*ஔவை விரதம்).*

The other poets and scholar kings of Sangam Age, who had close association with the district are *Oruchirai Periyanar*, who claimed to have belonged to Nanjilnadu, *"Bhoothapandian"*, the Pandya king who was also a poet and had a village named after him in the district, i.e Bhoothapandi, Perumkuntrur Perum Kausikanar, the author of Malaibadukadam who belonged to Eraniel Muttam of the district, Marungur Kilar Kannanar,

Marungur Pattinathu Senthan Kumaranar and Marungur paagai Eatham Poothanar.[5]

Education During Sangam Age : It is evident, that during the Sangam Period, the Tamil literature and language reached its apex and there were poets, poetesses, scholars and scholar kings. But the education in the country was not systematic. The interested people received education from the learned men under "*Teacher disciple*" pattern.

During the Sangam Age, the Tamils appear to have been a brave warm-hearted and warm-blooded people who cared much for the joys of living.[6] They cultivated poetry music and dancing. The Chera kings under whose reign was the present Kanniyakumari district, liberally patronised poetry and song and were easily accessible to poets and singers. They came from both sexes and from all castes and classes, and they were all very munificently rewarded without distinction, of caste, creed or sex.

The variety of *yazhs,* (string instrument) mentioned in sangam literature and the institution of 'Panars' (Minstrels) indisputedly show that the times and conditions were specially favourable for the art of music to flourish. Minstrelsy was much patronised not only in courts but in urban life also and we read of special adaptation of musical instruments for entertainment in rural areas. Sangam poetry [7] is full of life and colour and affords a faithful mirror of ancient Tamil Society. It may be noted that several Chera kings and other members of the Chera royal family occupied an honoured place among the sangam poets.

The importance of education was realised by the Tamils as early as the Sangam Age. [8] An exposition of the value of learning is provided by Thiruvalluvar in chapters 40 to 43 of his illustrious Kural. A few of his important precepts may be noticed here. The learned alone are said to possess eyes, while in respect of the unlettered they (the eyes) are but sores. (Kural:393) . Knowledge is the weapon which saves one from evil; it forms a rampart which cannot be destroyed by the foe (Kural 421). The learned possesses everything, while the unlettered are really poor, even if they have riches (Kural:430).

Nor does he stop there. Emphasising the value of perpetual acquisition of knowledge, he holds that knowledge increases as more and more is drawn from it, like water from a well. (Kural:391). That the learning is the only imperishable wealth (Kural:400) that the learned are honoured not

only in their native but all over the world (Kural 397) and finally that what has been learnt most systematically should always be put into practice in one's every day-life (Kural 391).

Thiruvalluvar laid special emphasis on the value of acquiring knowledge through the ear was considered even superior to more 'book learning'. Those who feast their ears with learning are comparable to venerable people who make sacrificial offerings (Kural:413). Though devoid of learning let one fill one's ear with knowledge, it is his support in his hour of gloom. (Kural:414).

With these maxims indicate Tiruvalluvar's awareness of the importance of learning and knowledge for all people, *Parimelazhakar* the well-known commentator of Kural, imagined, that these prescriptions were meant only for the Kings. This view is untenable. Valluvar's propositions regarding education are obviously of general application as much to kings in to the common people. Valluvar's contention that even the high born if they are ignorant sink low while the learned even of humble birth, are exalted (Kural:409) shows clearly that the author's prescription on education are not mentioned for kings alone.

Moreover, the large body of poems produced by different classes of people during the Sangam Age indicates that education must have had a fairly wide popularity. The educational activity continued steadily in the period succeeding the Sangam-age. Some of the Eighteen Minor works like the *Naladi Nanuru, Nanmanikkadigai, Eladi, Tirikadugam and Sirupan chamoolam* have also laid down prescription on the subjects to be taught, qualification of teachers and other details concerning education.

Parents attached importance to the education of their children. A poem in Purananuru collection states that it is the duty of the father to educate and thereby ennoble the son. *(சான்றோனாக்குதல் தந்தைகடனே-புறம். 312)* Among the Tamils, the home porvided a suitable atmosphere, for the development of knowledge and character while the father considered the provision of learning to his sons as his primary duty, the mother inculcated among her children both by precept and by example, the sense of certain virtues like courage and generosity. The mother's ambition, too, was to make the son, the great. Thriuvallur appropriately says that a mother's joy when she hears of her sons's greatness transcends than at his birth (Kural 69).

The traditional 'pial' schools called 'pallis' were conducted invariably by individual teachers. The 'pial' was the 'Thinnai' *(திண்ணை)* or the platform like *Verandha* of the house. In certain cases, perhaps, sheds or covered shelters were set up near the teacher's house. We hear some of pupils having lived in public rest houses like Manram which seem to have served also as schools.

However, information regarding the number of schools in each village or the number of pupils who attended each school is lacking. If deductions may be made from the indirect references found in the literature of the age, one may have to conclude that only the royal family and the people in the upper strata of the society generally received education. Some members of the artisan classes like goldsmiths and carpenters also presumably took to learning.[9]

Higher education, particularly pertaining to religion was a monopoly of the Brahmins.[10] Vedic lore, the Sutras, Upanishads, Epics and Dharma Sastras must have been taught to Brahmins by learned teachers of the caste. The curriculam of studies for the other classes was of a general character. Besides, those taking to technical arts like warfare and mechanical pursuits, would have received some special training suited to their occupation. One of the unfortunate features of education, particularly of the higher type, was that it was governed by the prevalent social stratification. This feature, which had continued through the ages until recent times, had led to a low sided development so far as the entire population was concerned. Nor can it be said that all women received even primary education. A few poetesses figuring in the Sangam Age, can by no means represent the entire women folk of Tamil Nadu. Some artisans also appear as poets during the sangam epoch. That too, does not prove that all members of these groups were benefited by education. If we are to judge from the known conditions of later times, we have to conclude that education was a privilege enjoyed by certain class of people only.

In the pial schools, a basic grounding in language and literature as well as arithmetic was provided. Alphabet was known as *"Nedumkanakku"* and perhaps that was the reason why teachers were called *"Kanakkayar"*. Oral teaching played an important part, and the education of those days afforded great scope for the training of the memory. Writing was done on dried and seasoned palmyrah leaves with the aid of pointed iron styles. *(எழுத்தாணி)* This mode of writing

continued to be in vogue in Tamil Nadu, until very recent times. The reference to writing on palm leaves is found in Naladi. There is no doubt that it was common on the Sangam age itself.[11] During the period of learning, some pupils are said to have subsisted on charitable feeding.

The initial training for youngsters in the art of writing was provided by making them write on the sand, spread on the floor. The language was no doubt, *Tamil* but the script employed during the period had been a subject of controversy., Was the Tamil script now in vogue current in sangam age? Was it developed from an indigenous pattern developed by the Tamils themselves or was it adopted from a script prevalent outside Tamil Nadu? Broadly speaking there are *two views* on the matter. One is that of the epigraphists who hold that the Tamil script, including its earlier form of *Vatteluttu* was derived from Brahmi, which in its turn, had been borrowed from North India or from outside India. The other view is that the Tamil script has evolved from Vatteluttu, which was of indigenous origin in Tamil Country itself and that it is neither derived from the Brahmi nor from Grandha. But, it is important to remember that the vatteluttu script is not available prior to 7th century AD. A recent view is that the Tamil script is derived from *'Damili'* a script mentioned by a Jain work Sanavagyagana Sutta, belonging to about the 1st century BC.

Teacher : The importance of having a teacher for each village was recognised by the author of *Thirikadugam*. The teacher was known as *Kanakkayar* and alternatively in the post Sangam period as *Uvattiyar*. *Asiriyar* was apparently a teacher of vast learning and an author of literary works. Probably, the teacher of a large number of pupils was known as *Kulapathi*.

Poets and masters of learning seem to have had disciples, whom they trained well. The traditional accounts indicate the practice of learned men having accepted certain deserving young men, as their disciples. Some of the poets of sangam age themselves are known to have had disciples. The teacher was held in high esteem by the pupils as well as by others. The Tamil society has always had a tradition of honouring the teachers and the learned.

In the sangam age even after their marriage, some youths used to leave their home for the purpose of education. Nevertheless, the ancient Tamils seem to have appreciated the importance of commencing education at an early age. "Learn while young" *(இளமையிற் கல்)* is a well

known maxim of Avvaiyar of *Athisoodi* fame. *What is learnt while young is like writing on the rock is an inference from a sangam poem.*

Thus, from the messages available from Sangam literature it is inferred that the education and learning was at its zenith in Tamil Nadu especially in Kanniyakumari district, should be more so, since it is believed that the first two of three Tamil Sangams were held in the portion of the district, which was engulfed by the sea.

Education During the period of the Pandyas, the Imperial Cholas and the Ayis : During the sangam period, the Cheras had their rule extended over certain parts of the present Kanniyakumari district and the remaining portions were under the Pandyas. After the Sangam Cheras, the entire area of the present Kanniyakumari district, came under the Pandya rule though there were Ayi rulers who were sometimes independent and sometime owed their allegiance to the Pandyas.

The Pandyas were the patrons of letters and poets. Many of them were poets themselves. The Pandya king *Aryapadaikadantha Neduncheliyan* advised his people to take to learning either by paying fee or rendering services to the teachers. (Puram: 183). In fact, this poem of Aryapadaikadantha Neduncheliyan is of great importance in emphasising the value of education.

உற்றுழி உதவியும் உறுபொருள் கொடுத்தும்
பிற்றை நிலை முனியாது, கற்றல் நன்றே;
பிறப்பு ஓர் அன்ன உடன் வயிற்றுள்ளும்,
சிறப்பின் பாலால், தாயும் மனம் திரியும்
ஒரு குடிப்பிறந்த பல்லோருள்ளும்,
'மூத்தோன் வருக' என்னாது, அவருள்
அறிவுடையோன் ஆறு அரசும் செல்லும்,
வேற்றுமை தெரிந்த நாற்பாலுள்ளும்,
கீழ்ப்பால் ஒருவன் கற்பின்,
மேற்பால் ஒருவரும் அவன்கண் படுமே.

(புறம் 183 - ஆரியப்படை கடந்த
நெடுஞ்செழியன்)

A Pandya inscription from Seranmadevi mentions a grant of land to a library (Sarasvathi Bhandara) in a temple in the locality and records containing endowments for the recitation and study of the Vedas and Puranas in temples are frequently met with.[12]

K.A. Nilakandasastri on the system of Education in ancient South India (periods of the Pandyas, Cholas and Vijaya nagar Kings) writes.

"Of the system of education we get more positive information of higher studies in Sanskrit, than on popular education. While the former formed the liberal endowments recorded in inscriptions of considerable strength, we have to make inferences about the latter from the mention of the village teacher and his share in the arable land of the village and also occasional direct endowments, as for the feeding of Tamil, Marathi and Prakrit in the Schools of Kuntala. What we should now call techincal or vocational training was a private affair, the father brought up his children in his calling and learning went side by side with doing. The erection of a temple or palace must have been the occasion as much for the discovery of fresh talent as for the application of known abilities, and judging from monuments that have survived we may well conclude, that at no time was there dearth of aritisans who were also great artists. The beauty and accuracy which mark the engraving of most inscriptions on stone and copper attest the high degree of literacy and skill of the engravers, while the literary quality of many of the inscriptions,as well on the volume of literature produced in all languages, shows that the cultivation of popular speech of each locality and its employment in administration and education was by no means neglected. All we lack is clear knowledge of the process by which these results were achieved, especially during the earlier period when the 'Maths' had not come up in such large numbers as they did later to foster vernacular learning and culture. The three R's (Reading, Writing and Arithmatic) were taught in village schools which met under the snade of a tree or in the verandahs of temples, and the village officials who held assignments of land from the village on condition that they fulfilled specified duties. The Italian traveller Pietro Dellar Valle (1623) has left a vivid account of the village schools and the methods of instructions they followed, including the process of learning by rote and the use of fine sand threwn on the floor for writing, methods which survived in full force, till the other day and have perhaps not quite gone out yet in remote villages. Ibn Batuta (1333-45) records. "I saw in Hanaur thirteen schools for the instruction of girls, twenty three for boys, a thing I have not seen anywhere else." "Robert de Nobili, in a letter of 1610, says that in Madura, there were 10,000 students who went to the Professor in Theology and Philosophy. When the Christian Missionaries came, they began to start schools which, besides hospitals, formed the main channels for propagation of their gospel".[13]

"Adult education was provided throughout the country by endowments in temples for the recitation and exposition of the epics of Puranas. An intelligent and popular expositor seldom confined himself to the words of his text, but at once instructed and amused his audience by ranging over a variety of topics including shrewd comment on current affairs. This form of popular instruction is not unknown even at the present day. The singing of devotional hymns in temples by choirs regularly maintained for that purpose and the training of young men for the same purpose in schools generally attached to maths in another side of education that deserves notice. Besides maths, Jainpallis and Buddhist vihars played a part in educating the people wherever they existed, and they had large libraries of books in all branches of learning, which were being copied from time to time."

"Sanskrit learning tended to be the monopoly of Brahmins, though there were exceptions, and it was particularly encouraged by means of large special endowments. Sometimes only four, and sometimes as many as eighteen subjects of study were enumerated. The four subjects were philosophy, veda, economics and politics a group which was particularly suited to kings and which in fact first occurs in Kautiya's Arthasastra. The fourteen vidyas were, the four vedas, six angas (auxiliaries), phonetics, prosody, grammar, etymology, astronomy and ritual, puranam, logic exegesis and law (dharma sastras). To these, were added ayurveda (medicine). Dhanurveda, (archery) music and arthasastra to make up the tale of eighteen. Brahmins learned in many of these sciences served as Rajagurus (teachers of Kings) and spread themselves all over the land edifying the lives of the inhabitants of every town and village Gifts of lands and houses were frequently offered as an incentive to (learned) Brahmins enabling them to come and settle where they were wanted. In several places, they were organised into corporate colleges called brahmapuris and ghatikas".

In Kerala (including the present Kanniyakumari district) the Nambudiri Brahmins allowed only the eldest son to contract a permanent marriage and rear a family, the younger sons freed from family cores, devoted themselves generally to study and teaching and helped in the promoting of literacy among the masses.[14] Sanskrit learning was patronised by the chiefs as can be seen from a grant of the Ayi King "Karunandadakkan, middle of the ninth century, endowing a college and hostel for the maintenance of *95* vedic students, who were admitted after an entrance test in vyakarne (grammar), mimasa (exegeties) paurohitya (priest craft)

and (Trairajyervyavahara) law and usage of the three countries, perhaps Pandya, Chola and Kerala. The college was to function at *Parthiva Sekarapuram* in the present Kanniyakumari district.

The information regarding the Parthiva Sekarapuram salai is derived from the Parthiva Sekarapuram plates of Ayi king Karunandadakan. It further adds that the king acquired land from the local assembly of Munchira village and built a Vishnu temple there and the place was christened as Parthivasekarapuram. He had chosen this place for establishing this Vedic University. Besides lessons on Vedas, statecraft also was taught in this university. This functioned as the administrative staff training college for the Governments of the Cheras, Cholas and the Pandyas. It was also a Military Academy. It was emphasised that the good character was also an important factor to be maintained by the trainees. There was a code of conduct for them. This is explained in the Parthivasekarapuram plate. According to the code of conduct one student should not rag other or indulge in skirmishes and those who did not abide the code would be punished severely. If two candidates attacked each other by weapon they would be expelled from the university. They were also prohibited from gambling and employing char women.[15]

Another important vedic college or *'Salai'* that flourished in the present Kanniyakumari district, during the Pandya rule was the Srivallapa Perumsalai at Kanniyakumari.[16] K.K. Pillay writes,[17] "it is remarkable, that the educational activities were not confined to the Pandya and Chola dominions. The land of the Ayis, under whom Suchindrum and Nanjilnadu flourished in early times, was equally famous for such institutions. The salai of Munchirai, the Srivallabhaperam salai at Kanniyakumari and the celebrated Kandalur salai are well known. Again at Puravaseri, quiet in the neighbourhood of Suchindrum, is found an inscription of AD 1196 which registers a gift of land as Kidaivritti for maintaining two teachers to expound the Rig and Yajur Vedas."

Apart from the patasalas or schools instanced above, which were intended exclusively for brahmins, pupils, there existed also scope for popular education. In most of the South Indian temples, there were spacious halls or mandapam, where the recitation and exposition of the Ramayana, the Mahabharatha and the Puranas took place. In the temple at Suchindrum of Kanniyakumari district the Mahabharatha Kazhakam was the place set apart for this purpose.[18]

In respect of the patronage and dissemination of sacred literature, the part played by the maths can not be ignored. The Vattapalai maths[19] appears to have been the earliest one in Suchindrum.

Education Under Early Venad Kings: During the first quarter of the 12th century AD, the present Kanniyakumari district area came under the sceptre of the Venad Kings the dynasty which continued to rule till the acquisition of Travancore State into Indian Union in September 1949. What prevailed in the early centuries continued with improvements suiting to the time. The only educational institution then existed in the district were the pial schools. These pial schools existed even in the first decade of this twentieth century and they *faded* away, as there had been gradual improvement of the systematic and uniform procedure followed in the field of education. About the pial schools in the erstwhile Travancore State, Nagam Aiya, writes in the Travancore Census Report of 1819 as follows:-

"Every village had a pyall school. The master was called the Ashan and the village boys and girls were taught there a few simple lessons in Malayalam. The Ashan is either an Ambalavasi or a Sudra, or sometimes even an Iluva. At the time of writing this Report there were 1,300 such schools in Travancore with 50,000 pupils in them. These institutions are all the result of private enterprise, mostly self-supporting, and have been so from very remote times. The teachers depend almost entirely upon the pupils for their maintenance, and the support is given most cheerfully by the parents or guardians of the pupils. The people look upon it as a religious duty never to be neglected. The payment is seldom in cash. It is mostly in kind. When the boy's education commences, the village schoolmaster is brought to the boy's house and is given a fanam, betel and nut, some paddy, coconuts and plantains. This is the first remuneration for the Vidyarambham or the boy's initiation in letters. The Ashan then takes the boy to his school with music and beat of drum. A new manuscript-book made of palmyra leaves written with an iron style either by the master himself or his assistant, the first book in his school, and daubed over with saffron is given to the pupil. This is the primer or the first book with which he begins his school life. The book begins with an invocation to God Ganesa, which almost every boy in the kingdom knows, having first learnt it in the pyall school. The pupil carries this book in his wooden satchel which his parents supply him with. When he has attended school for some months, the satchel becomes more and more weightened, as it now contains the second and the third books, some lessons in Arithmetic and Astronomy. Some of the chief precepts for daily

conduct, known as 'Neethi sastram', the thousand names of Vishnu, a portion of the Sanskrit Dictionary, easy lessons in casting horoscopes and the calender, a few verses on medicine, and general poetry all written as before on the palmyra leaf. These form the curriculum of school studies. Every new manuscript book brings its due remuneration in kind and money to the Ashan from the pupil's parent. On Wednesdays and Saturdays the pupil's mother remembers to tell her son to take some bathing oil to the teacher. Some rice, dhall, coconuts and plantains are due on the Dwadesi days, i.e. the twelth day of the fortnight. Something else due to the school master on the 13th day of the fortnight, and so on. The Vishu and the Onam are other days of payment to the Ashan. The school itself is held either in the pyall of the schoolmaster himself or one nearest to him. The boys attend from early morning, sometimes even before 6 A.M. which would be a great merit in the boy, and would receive special recognition from the master in the evening when the attendance is noticed and due punishments to the late comers are meted out. The special recognition that the first boy receives is a gently touch on the palm of his hand with the rod of the master. The second boy receives two such gently strokes on the palm of his hand, the third boy three, and when the last boy's turn comes the master puts on an air of great disapprobation and apparently in great anger asks his assistant, 'Is this boy the latest commer in my school?' So saying he gives him a good thrashing with the cane. Thus there is a regular competition among boys to avoid being the last. Another feature of the pyall school is that all the boys go on reading out loud at the same time, and the voices of the pupils are loudest when the schoolmaster enters. His assistant is in charge of the school for the day; the master himself comes only to inspect the school once or twice in the day, or to mete out punishments in the evening. During the other hours he is engaged in watering his vegetable garden, or doing his wife's bidding at home, or goes to the market to buy the household provisions for her, but he is none the less respected by his boys and the villagers. The assistant draws a pay of ten fanams, which means a rupee and a half from his chief; that too is in a manner respected. Both the chief and the assistant take it all easy. The work is neither heavy nor uncongenial. The discipline is perfect. The boys must come early and go late in the evening and a home exercise is given in addition, which is to read at night the lesson taught at school in the day. The boy should secure from his father a certificate which should be in the father's own hand. The parents are contented, if their boys are well up in the set formula, which pass for school education in their village and if, in addition, they have well to themselves, their relatives and neighbours, that is all that they want form

the Ashan. The Ashan's services are even afterwards gratefully remembered by them. The boys are also quite happy and contented, for execepting the early attendance and the evening punishments everything is mirth and play at school including the pell-mell reading out loud, in which they themselves take much delight. In the absence of the Ashan and his assistant, the boys can come and go as they please, and there is a perpetual round of holidays in the year. The beginning and the end of the fortnight are holidays. The eighth day of the fortnight is also a holiday. So also are the Saturdays and the fourteenth days. The afternoon of the 13th day is a half-holiday. Sometimes the 11th day is a great holiday, as when it falls in the month of Dhany (December). The birthday of Vishnu is a holiday. So also are the great Colasavoms in the local temples, the Vishu, the Onam, the Deepavali, the Dusserah festivities, the King's birthday and a great many other too numerous to mention which make the school boy's life one continual round of pleasure and enjoyment. These schools are closed during the cultivation and harvesting seasons, when the children go to help the work of their parents in the paddy fields".[20]

Missionary Enterprises and the dawn of Western Education : The Christian Missionaries, as elsewhere in India, were the pioneers of English Education in the erstwhile Travancore State and more particularly in the then South-Travancore the area presently forms the Kanniyakumari district. The Portuguese and the Dutch who came to the erstwhile Travancore State even prior to the British, were the Roman Catholics and they did little towards the cause of Education. But, the Protestant Missionaries who arrived later were the first to introduce English Education in the district, which was part and parcel of the then Travancore State.[21]

The originator of the English school in the erstwhile Travancore State was Rev. William Tobias Ringle Taub a native of Prussia and a man of great force and character.[22] He came to the State in 1806 and then onwards, he devoted his whole energy to evangelistic work and wherever he went, he carried with him the mission of English education. He was incessently preaching and teaching and he established many schools for poor children, Christians as well as non-Christians.

The progress of education through his instrumentality may be inferred from his reply to a query from Col.Munro, the Dewan Resident of Travancore in 1813.[23] He wrote that,

"There were *six* schools for the laity; the instructions that are given, consist in lessons of reading, writing, arithmetic and to Christian children

the catechism and reading the New Testament or religious books. The natives were not disposed to send their children to school. Books were supplied presents from the Missionaries at Tranquebar but not in sufficient number." Ringle Taub's noble efforts in the spread of education was aided through the recommendation of the Resident Col. Munro, by a *grant of land* at a nominal rent made by Rani Laxmi Bai.

In 1809, Ringle Taub constructed a church at Mylaudy (Kanniyakumari distict) which was the first protestant church built in Travancore State.[24] He appointed one Vedamanickam as the catechist. Besides this Mylaudy Church, he built seven other churches in the then Travancore State at Pichekudiyiruppu, Tamarakulam, Puttalam, Aticode, Kovil Vellay, Anandanadan Kudiyiruppu and Etamoly. All these places are located in the present Kanniyakumari district.[25] In 1811, a Residency bungalow for Ringle Taub was built at Kanniyakumari.[26]

He stationed catechists at the principal villages, and in addition to that, he employed few school masters for the instruction of the youth.[27] One of the boys always accompanied him in his preaching tours. The primary duty assigned to the catechist school masters and school boys was to teach the proselytes scattered in the several villages, the lord's prayer, the commandments and the rudiments of catechism. The standard of knowledge which Ringle Taub demanded was perhaps not much better than what St.Xavier required from his proselytes two and a half century ago.

C.M.Augur the author of the *Church History of Travancore* writes that attempting anything more at the time was simply unattainable and they did wise in being satisfied with the low standard. Seminary theological classes, catechist classes, sunday schools Bible classes for men and women etc., were only developments of after years.

Rev. Ringle Taub bid farewell to the little church, Mylaudy of south Travancore in January 1816 and left this country.

During the short period of ten years (1806 to 1816), he laid the foundation not only for the growth of the Protestant Christianity, but also for the popular education in the area.

Rev. Mead : The second but most important missionary to be mentioned in connexion with the promotion of education in the district is Rev. Mead. He was the master workman who developed the infant

mission left by Mr. RingleTaub and shaped it into an extensive organisation. Rev. Abbs writes, "Mr. Mead was the founder of both Nagercoil and Neyyoor, in fact the father of the South Travancore (present Kanniyakumari district) Mission."[28]

Born in 1792 at Bristol, England, Rev. Mead arrived at the shores of India on 28th August 1816. After spending sometimes in Madras, he landed at Colachel in December 1817.[29] He settled at Mylaudy with his head quarters and later he moved his head quarters to Nagercoil as he was also appointed by the king, as the civil judge of Nagercoil in 1818 and his services to the causes of education also continued, without any interruption.

Nagercoil Seminary : The entire credit of establishing the first full fledged educational institution in the district (i.e) at Nagercoil, goes to Rev. Mead. He drew up a plan for educating the children of the Christian converts and youths of other sects who might be willing to hear the words of God, with other secular studies, in hope that the students thus trained might hereafter become the means of introducing the principles of Christianity.[30]

His plan got fructified in October 1819 when he opened a Seminary or boarding school for boys which afterwards proved the most successful of all his establishments and the results he produced were more than his most sanguine hopes, that he anticipated.[31] This Nagercoil Seminary developed into Nagercoil Christian College and later it was christened as the Scott Christian College, and it still flourishes with the same name. It should also be mentioned here that when the king of Travancore visited the Nagercoil Seminary in 1834, he was so much impressed with the importance of English education and he asked for the services of a competent teacher to start an English School at Trivandrum.[32]

In his noble task Mr. Mead was ably assisted by Mrs. Mead. It was she who helped him to organise the Mission Seminary and the Girls Boarding School at first. From the time Mr. Mead settled at Nagercoil, he had a few youths under him receiving education, but they were required to have their own boarding arrangements. On her arrival at Nagercoil, Mrs. Mead made necessary boarding arrangments for 30 scholars first gathered into the *"Central School"* or Seminary in 1819 and also for the girls she selected and brought under Christian instruction after her coming to Nagercoil. Mrs. Mead was thus enabled to propose and organise a boarding school

for boys and another one for girls.[33] In the girls boarding school opened at Nagercoil, she was ably assisted by Mrs. Mault from the very beginning.

A 'Boys school-house' was at first built shortly after a new wing, containing a dining room, hospital and kitchen room was added. The number of boys in the seminary was limited to 30. The expenditure was meted out of the income from the *Mission Lands.* The objects of the school, as per the letters of Mr. Mead, were as follows:-

> The great object of this school is the communication of religious and useful knowledge. When a boy leaves the seminary, we shall be able to say From a child thou last known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.

Many of the children in the school not only read the Bible fluently but, from being constantly examined as to the contents of the chapter are able to give a good account of what they read.

"The next object of the institution is literature and languages, to be extended as far as the circumstances would admit. Books and treatises in every branch of useful Knowledge, maps, globes, mathematical and astronomical instruments are used in the schools for imparting instruction. The languages taught are English, Tamil, Malayalam and Sanskrit."[34] Rev. Mead employed Munshies (Pandits) for teaching these languages and got down teachers from Thanjavur. Mc. Ally, Christian Pillay, Ashton, Royappan and Sivasubramaniam were some of them. It is said that the standard of studies orginally proposed and began by Mr. Mead was high and the best obtainable in and around Travancore State.[35]

In the beginning of 1820, a school room was built in the most public part of the town of Nagercoil, a more suitable place than the Mission compound in which the shcool was first held to meet the *prejudices* of the heather (non-christians) who were withdrawing their children. Mahrasen was the first school master. The school was well attended. Children in the school were admitted irrespective of their religion.

They were examined every Monday morning at the Mission house, besides the regular inspection during the week. In 1822, they had 40 children and in 1823, Mr. Mead records, "The number of boys in this school of whom several are Brahmins has increased to fifty. The progress

of many of them in the knowledge of the Scriptures is very encouraging. They continue to undergo weekly examinations at the Mission House"[36]

School of Industry : Another important early Missionary enterprise towards the cause of Technical education in the district was the foundation of the school of Industry af Nagercoil in 1820. On the objects of the school Mr. Mead writes, "This institution has been formed to give the means of subsistence and the advantages of a Christian education, at the same time, to some of the children of our Congregations who are likely to be brought up in ignorence, idleness and vice. Some of the children are orphans, some we have redeemed from slavery, and others are the children of industrious-parents, who wish them to become useful members of the society and to have the means of supporting themselves in future life. The children are to learn in the school part of the day and work other part. They will be taught by natives who work on the mission premises, most of whom are Hindus by religion, whom we have engaged though not without some difficulty to instruct all discription of castes even the lowest."[37] The school was established for the purpose of promoting useful arts. Several boys have made progress in printing and book-binding, and tanning and currying leather.

Nagercoil Press : The Missionery, Rev. Mead, felt that printing press was an essential one for the purpose of imparting education. It was also thought that a course in the Nagercoil Industrial School on printing technology would be inducted, if there was a printing press. Having this in his mind, Rev. Mead, in 1820, when he went to Tranquebar, (Tharangambadi in Nagappattinam Quid-e-Milleth District) the place where the first printing press in Tamil Nadu was set up, he purchased a printing machine and the requisite materials from the *'Tranquebar Mission Press'*. To operate the printing press and especially to teach the boys of the Industrial school, Mr. Mead got down from Tharangambadi, an experienced printer named David Adiappan commonly called Thavithu Maistry and paid him a salary of Rs.21 a month.[38] Mr. Mead attached so much importance to the printing press, thus set up, in Nagercoil and he called it, " a valuable but necessary appendage to a Missonary establishment"[39] This Nagercoil Press established in 1820 is the first printing press in the then Travancore state. The first book that was printed by Mr. Mead in the Nagercoil press, in 1820 was a Tamil book called 'ஆத்ம போதம்" (Athma Potham) or the "soul's Instructor". Following this, thousands of books for both English and Tamil schools were printed.

In the second year of the installation of the press, Rev. Mead observed on the press as follows.

"The printing office being the first establishment of the kind in Travancore excited great attention. It has already supplied, in part, the several schools, with books, and the congregations with treatises of religious instruction. The business of the office is performed by young men belonging to the school of Industry. We are much encouraged in our labours, connected with this department, by the assistance of a learned Munshi from Tirunelvelly; a privilege, which previously we had, in no respect, enjoyed, form the paucity of native Tamil scholars, in this part of India."[40]

The First Products of Nagercoil Seminary :[41] It was already stated that school masters to the Seminary were brought from Thanjavur and Tharangambadi. But the first batch of students from the seminary were well trained to teach and so the necessity to bring teachers from outside never arose. In AD 1818, when the Seminary was founded, Mr. Mead selected from among the lads of Mylaudy village, in Kanniyakumari district, and its neighbourhood, ten intelligent youths and brought them to Nagercoil when he shifted his head quarters from Mylaudy to Nagercoil.

The following are the names of the youths who constituted the first batch of students in the Seminary —

(1) Devavaram, Moses Christian and three others form Mylaudy village.

(2) Munro from Kurichi village.

(3) Perinbanayagam from Kovilvilai.

(4) Sathiyanathan, Sivasubramaniyam and a few others from Kottar.

This was a very curious combination as there was a fair mixture of all classes. It cannot be said that these young men were given any superior education at first, there being no school yet established at Nagercoil to teach them systematically. They had their vernacular studies, elementary English lessons and scripture portions to be daily committed to memory. But they were however invariably required to accompany Rev. Mead when he itinerated in the villages and the lads on such occasion discoursed with them on religious subjects. Beyond this Socratic method of teaching, it was not possible to do anything more for these youths, as Rev. Mead had many things to attend to; nor was he able to make any boarding

arrangements for them till Mrs. Mead came and more over there was school building yet erected (initial stages).

As the standard of education in the Seminary was at first rather low, Mr. Mead selected two of those youths- Devavaram and Moses - to be educated in the best institutions then available for Indian youths.[42] These young men, after receiving a superior education in Thanjavur and Madras returned to Nagercoil with Proficiency Certificates as regards their progress in English, Tamil grammer and Literature and theology, much to the satisfaction of the Missionaries. These two eminent men, Devavaram and Moses - played a distinguished role in the creation of the Tamil Christian Literature and in the extension of schools and churches.

Female Education :[43] The Christian Missionaries were the pioneers not noly of the Western or English education in the erstwhile Travancore State, but also pioneers in the female education. The earliest girls' schools in the country were established between 1819 and 1823 and were most diligently developed and extended from time to time. Mrs. Mead, Mrs. Mault, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs.Norton, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs.Baker are the honoured names associated with these pioneer education enterprises among the women of Travancore. When Nagercoil seminary was opened in 1819 for boys by Rev. Mead, Mrs. Mead opened a school for the girls in the same year at Nagercoil itself. The girls for the schools were collected with much difficulty at the initial stage, since the parents were not willing to send their girls to schools. To the parents, sending their girls to schools was contrary to their customs and they were not prepared to break the customs. But however the initial difficulties were overcome when boarding, lodging and clothing facilities were offered to the pupils, free of cost, later.

Despite these hindrances, the school for the girls began with 14 girls. The primary object of the school was to impart instructions united with a Christian religious and moral education. After the girls had studied and memorised certain portions of the scripture, they were taught trades like knitting, spinning needle work, etc.

Mrs. Mead herself taught sewing, spinning, and knitting in the school, while Mrs. Mault taught chrochet, embroidery and pillow lacing. The peculiar feature was that the founders themselves had chosen the sacred service of teaching the girls students, purely in public interest. It is their contribution to the cause of education that has elevated the district to the highest esteem in the State of Tamil Nadu; as the Kanniyakumari district

ranks first in the State, in the field of education. The lace making, which made a humble beginning in this school, went to the extent later that the lace was widely known as South Travancore Mission lace in India and abroad and had won prizes in Madras, London, Paris, Chicago and other famous exhibitions.[44] The school gained strength year by year and afforded much cause for encouragement. The native prejudices against female education also gradually wore away.

In 1828, Mrs. Mead founded another school for girls at Neyyoor. It was a boarding school and flourished for many years, under the zealous care of its founder.

In the beginning many efforts were to be taken to encourage the female education. One of the interesting efforts to be noted was the publication of Tamil Tract of the Pages, "On the advantages of Female Education". This Tamil Tract was printed in London Missionary press, Nagercoil, numbered as 31 and freely distributed in the country. The Statement which exhorted the people to send their girls to schools ran as follows: "The Hindus of Bengal, Bombay and Madras have already sent their girls to schools, being convinced of the innumerable advantages of female education".

In the following years, two schools for girls were established by the Missionaries one at Santhapuram founded by one Mrs. Lewis and the another at Thuckalay founded by one Mrs. Abbs. In 1837, [45] 15 Girls schools were established in the then South Travancore containing 361 girls and in 1840 in the then two districts of Nagercoil and Neyyoor, out of 7,540 children under education 998 were girls. In 1857, in the four boarding schools of Nagercoil, Neyyoor, Santhapuram and Thuckalyay, there were 239 boarders besides day scholars and in 1859 there were 1468 girls in all the schools of South Travancore. C.M. Augur writes in his "Church History of Travancore":-

"While this much of effort was taken by the Missions to encourage female education in the early years of 19th century, the native Government of Travancore was supremely indifferent in the field of education".[46] Trivandrum, the capital of the Travancore State had no Government schools for girls, even forty years after the work had begun by the Missionaries with regard to the female education in the present Kanniyakumari district area.[47] C.M. Augur writes further, "It is highly gratifying that at the present day, Travancore stands far in advance of other parts of India including Native States, in the matter of female education".

Missionary Institutions in the district as on date. From the humble beginning of the year 1819, with the establishment of Nagercoil Seminary and school for the Girls at Nagercoil, the Missionaries had toiled a lot to improve the literacy of the district.

Primary Schools : In the year 1931, the Kottar Diocese[48] was formed and the schools hitherto maintained by the Missionaries also came under the overall supervision of the Diocese. In 1931, there were 75 Primary schools maintained by Missionaries of which many of them were not recognised by the then Government of Travancore. The number of schools, rose to 93 in 1945.

In the year 1945, when compulsory education was introduced in the erstwhile Travancore State, there was a move to nationalise all the private Primary Schools in a phased manner. As a result, 26 primary schools maintained by the Missionaries in Agasthiswaram and Thovalai Taluks were taken over by the Government, at the teeth of opposition from the Church. Recognition and grant-in-aid to Missionary schools were stopped. The Missions fought for their rights and represented their cause and however, in 1947, 73 primary schools were re-recognised and grants-in-aid were extended to them. In 1955, there were 81 full-fledged Primary Schools[49] in the diocese enjoying recognition and grant-in-aid from the Government. The total number of primary schools maintained by the Missionaries in the district, during 1977-78 was 100.[50] As on 30th September 1986, the number however increased to 120.[51]

Secondary Schools : Till 1947, there were two types of schools English and Vernacular, in Travancore State. In 1947, they were combined into new types of Middle or High School where either Tamil or Malayalam was the medium of instruction with a prominent place for English as the second language. The services of the Missionaries towards the cause of secondary education were comparatively lower than primary education.[52]

The first effort was the upgradation of the St. Francis Institute, Nagercoil founded in 1907, as a middle school in 1908. This was followed by the establishment of many middle and high schools by Missionaries in the subsequent years. During the year 1955, there were 18 middle schools and five High schools in the district run by the

Missionaries. The total number of middle schools in the district run by the Missionaries, during 1977-78 was 37.[53]

As on 30 September 1986, the Missionaries were running 34 middle schools, 32 Higher Secondary Schools and 34 High schools, of which 5 Higher Secondary schools and 12 High Schools were exclusively meant for the Girls. In one of such Girls Higher Secondary School, 'Teacher Training' was offered as a vocational subject.[54]

The efforts of the Government : As it has been mentioned earlier, till the Government of the then Travancore Native State took over the direction and control of the education system, private teachers called 'Asans'(ஆசான்) conducted schools in villages and imparted such instruction required for day-to-day life of the ordinary people particularly rural folk.[55]

The Government in those days took no direct part in the field of education. The remuneration of teachers was not paid, out of the State's coffers but, was contributed by the villagers themselves voluntarily. The system though devoid of State control worked satisfactorily and met the requirements of the people until individualistic tendencies had begun to manifest themselves and undermine corporate action on which ancient village organisation was passed.

Such was the condition of the society and education in the native state of Travancore in the beginning of the 19th Century. Educational standard had deteriorated and was almost completely neglected in the northern parts of the State (since in the southern part, the present district of Kanniyakumari, the pioneer work in education was begun by the Xian missionaries.)

Rescript of Rani Gowri Parvathi Bai : At this juncture, the Government of Travancore undertook the responsibility of fostering elementary educaton in this country. In 1817, Rani Gowri Parvathi Bai, the then ruler of Travancore issued a *Rescript* by which it was proclaimed "that the State should defray the entire cost of the education of its people in order that there might be no backwardness in the spread of enlightenment among them, that, by diffusion of education they might become better subjects and public servants and that the reputation of the State might be advanced thereby". About the time when the rescript was issued, a beginning was also made in the instruction of English education.

By issuing the 'Rescript' the State Government in principle came forward to accept that the provision of elementary education to the mass was their primary duty.

Everything was in paper since 13th December 1836 when the Raja's Free School, the first school of the Government, was opened at Trivandrum. The opening of this school had an interesting episode behind it. The King visited the Nagarcoil Seminary, run by the Missionaries. Surprised by the progress made in imparting education in the Seminary the king requested the Missionaries to place the services of a competent teacher at his disposal to start a similar school at the capital. Consequently, Mr. J. Roberts, the Headmaster of the Seminary went to Trivandrum and opened a school at first, and the Govenment contributed fees for eighty pupils. "The education given there and the example of missionary enterprise seem to have roused a liberal native opinion in favour of the new learning of the West." This was the observation made in the meeting conducted on the 12th Feb.1835 for the purpose of concerting "measures for the intellectual improvement of the rising generation in Travancore." The result of this was that Mr. Robert's school was taken over by the Government and was ultimately established on 13th December 1836 as " Raja's Free School ". As the name indicated, the school was not a fee levying one but a full fledged free school and the strength was limited to 100. This school later developed in to one of the largest and most flourishing colleges in southern India.[56]

District Schools : At the same time when the free school was established at Trivandrum, several district English schools were opened at various places and one of them was at Kottar of present Kanniyakumari district. But some of these schools became defunct later due to the bad shape of the State finance, but were revived by Rev. Mead who was appointed Superintendent of Education in 1855. He constantly travelled the country and opened many schools and several vernacular (i.e. Malayalam and Tamil) schools were amalgamated by him in 1860 with the Engilish schools with a view to extend the benefit of the English Education.[57]

J.E. Lafranais succeeded Rev.Mead as the Superintendent of Education in 1862.[58] Under his able and effective management, the school considerably improved. With a view to create a stimulus towards education among the students of the District Schools which served as feeders to the Central Insitution at the capital and in order to encourage

the deserving students to pursue their studies in the Trivandrum school, six scholarships were founded in 1864, open to the exclusive competition of the district school students.

J.E. Lafrenais' efforts in organising schools were much praised ."He was one of those public servants who acted indefatigably under an ever present sense of duty". Wrote Sir Madhava Row, Dewan of Travancore. When he entered service, there were only eight district schools, including the one at Kottar, but owing to his unwearied exertions and conscientious labours during a period of twelve years, their number rose to eighteen and all had attained a high standard of progress. In 1874, the total number of district schools in the State became twenty two and this number remained stationary, for instead of meeting the steadily increasing demand for English education in the districts by the establishment of Government schools the Government resolved in 1887 to extend the system to grants-in-aid which had produced such admirable result in the vernacular education branch.

During the year 1866-67 there were three District English Schools run by Government in the area now forming part of the district of Kanniyakumari.[59] They were, the schools at Kottar with 146 pupils and 5 teachers, at Thuckalay with 114 pupils and four teachers and at Eraniel with 78 pupils and 3 teacher. The number of district schools had doubled(i.e) six in 1875-76 and the new shcools were opened at Kuzhithurai, Colachel and Boothapandi.[60] The spread of 6 schools in the present Kanniyakumari district were out of 22 schools in the whole Travancore State.

About the outstanding performances of the pupils at Kottar school, Mr. Bensley an officer of the Department of Education, writes as follows.

> "I have great pleasure in stating that they were all well prepared and that they have for the most part given satisfaction. I may mention especially all the Kottar boys nearly all of whom have taken a good position in the High school".[61]

Introduction of vernacular education : The attention of the Government turned towards improving the Vernacular education only in the year 1865-66. There were indeed many private vernacular schools in the State before that time. These indigenous schools afforded abundant facilities to the people to acquire the rudiments of knowledge. Any person who desired that his children should learn the proverbial three R's had no

need to go beyond his village. The Asan (ஆசான்) or village teacher held his position as such by virtue of heredity the profession having been followed by his ancestors for several generations. The people, most of whom had their education under the 'Asan', held him in great reverence and considered his teaching the best they could secure for their children.

But the education imparted in these schools was based on a system which did not attempt the development of knowledge to the extent required, and was found quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the age. The Government, therefore, deemed it necessary to sanction in 1866 a sum of Rs.20,000/- per annum to meet the expenses for this purpose.[63]

Central and taluk schools : The repercussion of the initiation of the Government Policy to improve vernacular education were the opening of Central and taluk Schools. In 1866, a Central School was opened at the capital, where Sanskrit was taught in addition to Malayalam. Following this, taluk schools, one school at each taluk of the State, were also opened. As the present Kanniyakumari district area formed five taluks (i.e) Agasthiswaram, Thovali, Vilavankodu, Kalkulam and Eraniel of the erstwhile Travancore State in 1866 there were five such vernacular taluk schools in the respective taluk headquarters. The education in these schools was modelled on the system in English schools and was imparted through books translated from that language or compiled chiefly from English writings on History, Geography, Arithmetics, etc. and through the agency of teachers trained to the method of teaching in English schools. The syllabus included in the study was History of India, Geography of Travancore State, Geography of India, Arithmetic, Political Economy, Moral instruction, Sanskrit, etc.[64]

But, there was difficulty in finding suitable books and competent teachers. To solve this problem, a Book Committee was formed with a President and three members, all of them were men of letters, and the task of selecting, compiling and translating the text books was entrusted with them.[65] A vernacular normal school was opened at Trivandrum to impart training to the teachers enabling them to teach at the vernacular schools.

A new post of the Director of Vernacular Education was also created and all the vernacular institutions were brought under the control of the Director.[66] The Director was assisted by two Inspectors, one for North and the other for South Travancore. The vernacular institutions in the then five taluks of the South Travancore, (i.e) the present Kanniyakumari district

came under the control of the Inspector of south Travancore. The duty of the Inspector was to inspect the schools and send reports, on their functioning.[67] This set up was introduced with effect from 1866-67. The first Director of Vernacular Education was Mr.Shankara Subbaiyar.

Grant-in-aid for vernacular schools : As the vernacular education grew more popular, the Government planned to bring all the private vernacular schools in the State, under their administrative control for ensuring uniform syllabus. This remarkable plan was shaped in 1869 and the Government announced grants-in-aid to the private schools on th following conditions :–

(1) that the course of instruction pursued should be the same as that of the Government;

(2) that the books used in the Government schools should also be taught in the private schools; and

(3) that properly qualified teachers only should be employed.

A special Inspector was appointed to supervise the private schools and to report on the fulfilment of the conditions of grant-in-aid. By these measures, the private schools were brought under the periodical inspection by the Inspectors of the Education Department. Consequently, the tone and efficiency of the private vernacular schools improved considerably.

The Proverthy or Village School : Another measure taken by the Government to popularise and expand the vernacular education was the opening of proverthy or village schools. A scheme was launched to open *"one school for one village"* and the instruction was to be similar to that of the taluk schools, though of primary standard. As per the scheme. it was obligatory on the part of the villagers to provide school buildings and the Government would pay the grant of one *'fanam'* per pupil to provide the requisite teaching machinery. If there was need, more than one school in a village was opened. The Government appointed Deputy Inspector of Schools at the rate of one for every 14 schools to supervise their proper functioning. In pursuance of this system, 141 schoolswere opened in the next year (1871-72).[68] Out of the 141 shcools in the State, there were 36 schools in the area of the present district of Kanniyakumari.[69]

The following was the taluk-wise distribution of proverthy schools functioning there during 1871-72.

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of Taluk (2)*	*Total No.of schools (3)*
1	Thovalai	7
2	Agasthiswarm	8
3	Eraniel	6
4	Kalkulam	7
5	Vilavankodu	8
	Total	36

The master brain which successfully carried out this educational reform was that of Mr. Sankara Subbaiyar, the then Director of Vernacular education.

In the village schools, reading, writing both on paper and cadjan leaves, arithmetic and geography (General and Travancore) were taught. Besides this syllabus, in Taluk schools, Indian History and elementary Sanskrit were also taught. At the Central Vernacular school of Trivandrum, the standard was higher and embraced the First Book of Euclid, Algebra up to simple equations and the Indian and Travancore history. The standard of Sanskrit taught was also of high order. The number of vernacular schools gradually increased and with it also the expenditure of Government on vernacular education, which amounted in 1881 to above Rs.60,000/.[70] The Government were unable to make any larger outlay for this branch of education. So, it was thought that the local private agencies might be encouraged to open schools and to extend them financial assistance under grant-in-aid schemes instead of opening new schools by the Government. The measure was greatly appreciated by the people and the proffered Government aid was largely availed of, with the result that a wholesome stimulus for the diffusion of vernacular education throughout the State was imparted by the improvement of the indigenous schools.

The growth of the number of educational institutions may be assessed from the following facts. During the year 1878-79, the villages in the Kanniyakumari district area were divided into three Ranges (i.e) Thovalai Range, Kalkulam Range and Vilavankodu Range, each headed by an Inspector.[71] In Thovalai range the school at Kottaram ceased to exist owing to the difficulty of collecting school fees from the pupils and a new school, at Kulasekaran was in consequence opened in its stead in the year 1878-79. The school at Azhakiapandiapuram, Anandapuram and

Pharvathipuram were not so well attended as in the previous year, because private masters opened rival schools in the neighbourhood, but the remaining schools continued to work. In Kalkulam range, the schools at Thirpparappu and Kothainallur discontinued to work, as the pupils were not able to pay the school fees and consequently, new schools at Neyyoor and Mandaikadu were established. The schools which were in a good condition in this Range during the year 1878-79 were those at Aloor, Pathara, Thirvidhankodu, Kulasekaram, Ponmanay, Kattuturai, Midalam and Rajakkamangalam. In Vilavankodu range, nearly one half of the schools continued to work well, while the progress in the remaining schools were rather slow. It was during this year 1878-79 two youths from the erstwhile Travancore State were, for the first time, sent by the Government to be trained at Agricultural college, Saidapet, Madras.[72]

The next important change took place in the field of education of the district was in the year 1893-94. In this year, the nomenclature of the vernacular schools were slightly changed.[73] Previously the three stages of the vernacular schools were, Lower, Middle and High Schools. In 1894, the term Lower was changed as *'Primary'* and the other two terms continued to be as such. A definite standard of instruction for each such stage (i.e) Primary, Middle and High schools was also framed.

The Education Reform of the State in the year 1894 re-organised the administrative and Inspectoral systems of the Educational institutions. For many years prior to 1894, the administration was based on the distinction between English Education and Vernacular Education. The control of each was entrusted to a distinct body, each of them quite independent of the other. The Chief Head of English Education was the Director of English Education and the Superintendent of English Schools was under his direct control while the vernacular schools of the Government and the private aided vernacular schools were under the administrative control of the Director of Vernacular Education. Nagam Aiya writes about the system of education as follows[74] :—

"This system was considered defective. In matters pertaining to English Education, there was divided authority. The office of the Director was held ex-officio by the Principal of the His Highness the Maharajah's College, Trivandrum and was purely nominal. The officer was to advise Government on matters concerning English education.He had also liberty

to advise District Superintendent. But, he was seldom consulted by Government while it was not incumbent on the Superintendent to follow his advice. In regard to vernacular education there were other evils also."

"This principle of separation gave rise to the existence, side by side, of two sets of rules - regulating the State aid to educational institutions, one relating to English and the other vernacular schools. The two sets of rules so far agreed that both were of the most general character and prescribed no standard as to accommodation, equipment or qualification of teachers, conformity to which was necessary for a claim to the assistance afforded by the State".

Hence, in 1894, the Government after careful enquiry and consideration resolved to introduce certain reforms in the field of control, inspection and State aid. Accordingly, all the English and vernacular schools in the State were brought under *three* Inspectors, each having separate range and they were directly responsible to Government.[75] The scheme abolished the existing set up of State Education Department which consisted of the Director of English Education, Director of Vernacular Education, Superintendent of district schools and the Head Inspector of Vernacular Schools in Padmanabhapuram and other ranges.

The three Ranges were termed as Southern, Central and Northern and the entire area now forming Kanniyakumari district along with four other taluks of present Trivandrum district of Kerala, came under the Inspector of Southern Range. The Revenue taluks comprised in the Southern Range were Agasthiswaram, Thovala, Eraniel, Kalkulam Vilavankodu, Trivandrum, Neyyattinkara, Nedungad and Chirayinkil. The first Inspector of the Southern Range was Mr.P. Ramasamy Iyer.

Each Range was further sub-divided into four districts comprising of two or more taluks each and placed in-charge of an Assistant Inspector of Schools. Another important feature of the "1894-Educational Reform" was the issue of 'Travancore Education Rules' in December 1894. This Rule prescribed conditions which were to be fulfilled before Government grants were extended. The conditions related to the curricula of the school, qualification of teachers, building accommodation and sanitation, furniture and educational appliances and aids etc.

The introduction of these reforms was beneficial. There had been an increase in the pattern of general inspection. Aided schools had been subjected to more critical supervision and this in turn had improved the efficiency.

Steps were also taken at the direction of the Government to extend facility of education to every nook and corner of the State. The result was that in the following years, there was at least one Government school of the primary grade for each proverthy (i.e) village. The result of the Reforms was well- productive. Consequent on the introduction of the Reforms, at least one school, (inclusive of institutions under private management, in the erstwhile Travancore State) for every 1.9 sq.miles and for 792 inhabitants, was opened. The following table will very well show the growth of educational institutions in the area now forming Kanniyakumari district.[76]

		1893		*1894*	
Taluk	*Population (as per 1891 Census)*	*Total No. of Schools (Govt.)*	*Total No. of Pupils*	*Total No. of Schools (Govt.)*	*Total No. of Pupils*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
Thovalai	29751	57	2398	66	3320
Agasthiswaram	87241	108	6021	123	7122
Eraniel	1,05,098	130	7057	147	8197
Kalkulam	59,474	92	4607	86	3953
Vilavankodu	68,521	107	4868	102	4793

During the year 1893-94, the following were the Government English District Schools and aided schools, that were flourishing in the present district of Kanniyakumari.

(1) Kottar High School

(2) Eraniel District School

(3) Thiruvattar District School

(4) Bhoothapandi District School

(5) Town Girls School, Nagercoil

(6) Middle School, Marthandam.

The growth of the educational institution in the former five taluks (Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam Vilavankodu and Eraniel) of the erstwhile Travancore State, which have now formed the Kanniyakumari districts, was tremendous in the succeeding years and what follows is the details about the various types of educational institutions and their location, (taluk-wise) during the year 1895-96.[77]

English primary school : Throughout the State of Travancore, the Government maintained only one English Primary School and that was at *Boothapandi* of Thovalai taluk of Kanniyakumari district. The others were run by either aided or private managements. In erstwhile Erniel taluk, there was one aided English Primary School for girls (i.e) Anglo Vernacular Girls School at Neyyoor and private English School at Karingal (The private schools in all the cases were un-aided). In Agasthiswaram taluk, there was one English Primary School at Kottaram (i.e) Anglo Vernacular School. In the English Primary Schools, the medium of instruction was English. The mother-tongue, either Tamil or Malayalam as the case may be, was also taught as one of the subjects.

English middle school : There were eight English Middle Schools in the district, out of which 3 were run by Government and five by the private aided managements. Two of these eight schools, were exclusively for Girls. The details of the schools were.

Government English Middle Schools.-

1. **Eraniel Taluk -**

   Eraniel English School

2. **Kalkulam Taluk -**

   (a) Thuckalay English School

   (b) Thiruvattar English School

Private Aided.-

1. **Agasthiswaram Taluk -**

   (a) Nagercoil Boarding School

(b) Town Girls School, Nagercoil

2. **Eraniel Taluk**

(a) Neyyoor, Anglo Vernacular Boys School.

3. **Vilavankodu Taluk**

(a) Marthandam Girls School

(b) London Mission Society School, Marthandam

English High Schools : There were two English High Schools in the district, of which one was run by the Government at Kottar, (the Kottar High School) and the other was run by the Missionary, the Nagercoil Seminary, which had its glorious history. The Government English High school at Kottar was one of the *six* such schools run by the Government in the whole State. Of the remaining five, two schools had been located at Trivandrum and one each in Quilon, Alampuzha and Parur.

VERNACULAR SCHOOLS

Vernacular Primary Schools : There were three agencies which were running the schools (i.e.) Government, aided private managements and private managements not availing of the aid. The agency-wise details of the Vernacular Primary Schools that were functioning by 1895-96 are as follows[78] :–

Name of the Taluk (1)	*Total No. of Govt. Vernacular Primary Schools* (2)	*Total No. of Aided Vernacular Primary Schools* (3)	*Total No. of private Vernacular Primary Schools* (4)	*Total No. of the Schools of all categories* (5)
Thovalai	8	19	13	40
Agasthiswaram	9	63	23	85
Eraniel	12	77	70	159
Kalkulam	7	49	35	91
Vilvankodu	7	49	26	82

Vernacular Middle Schools : The Vernacular Middle Schools were also run by the three Agencies (i.e.) Government, private aided management and pirvate managements which were not availing of the aid. The aided (private) agencies ran more schools than the other two agencies. The details by 1895-96 are as follows.

Government Vernacular Middle Schools :

Name of the Taluk (1)	*Name of the Places where the schools existed* (2)	*Name of the schools* (3)
1. Agasthiswaram	1. Suchindram	1. Malayalam Girls School
	2. Kottar	2. District Girls School
	3. Kottar	3. Malayalam Girls School
2. Eraniel	1. Eraniel	1. Eraniel District School
	2. Pathara	2. Proverthy school
3. Kalkulam	1. Kalkulam	1. District Girls School
	2. Thiruvattar	2. District Girls Schools
	3. Kalkulam	3. District Malayalam school
	4. Thiruvattar	4. District Malayalam School
4. Vilavankodu	1. Kuzhithurai	1. Girls School
	2. Vilavankodu	2. District School
	3. Aruthesam Patti	3. Middle School
	4. Pynculam	4. Middle School
	5. Paincal	5. Middle School
	6. Lakshmi Pudhankodu	6. Middle School

There was no Government Vernacular Middle School, in Thovalai taluk.

Aided Vernacular Middle Schools : Following were the locations of the Aided Vernacular Middle Schools in Kanniyakumari district :–

Name of the Taluks (1)	Name of the Place where there were Vernacular Aided Middle Schools. (2)	
1. Thovalai	1. Thovalai	11. Arasarkudy
	2. Thalakudy	12. Kattuppudhur
	3. Thittuvillai (Boys School)	13 Boothapandi
	4. Thittuvillai (Girls School)	14. Kollaturti
	5. Kesavanar	15. Semparuthivillai
	6. Kadalunkuly	16. Puliadi
	7. Aramboly	17. Villacherry
	8. Senbagaramanputhur	18. Beemanary
	9. Sagayanagar	19. Peyotu
	10. Auditope	
2. Agasthiswaram	1. Nagercoil (Village Girls School)	
	2. Kedacherry	
	3. Vadasery	
	4. Agasthiswaram	
	5. Nagercoil (Village Boy's Schools)	
	6. Veeravilai	10. Irtailandy
	7. Manacudi	11. Kulathuvilai
	8. Kottiadi	12. Koilvilai
	9. Zionpuram	13. Puthan Chandai
3. Eraniel	1. Santhapuran	
	2. Anandanarkudi	
	3. Koduppeikuly	
	4. Muttom	
4. Kalkulam	1. Christnakoli	
5. Vilavankodu	1. Pakiapuram	4. Unnavila
	2. Palacode	5. Nanpaly
	3. Malpuram	6. Marthandam

Private Vernacular Middle Schools : There were three Private (un-aided) Vernacular Middle Schools in Thovalai taluk (Aramboli,

Wutchampara, and Chekkadi) two schools in Eraniel taluk (Mulugumoodu and Parrycodu) and one school in Vilavankodu taluk.

Vernacular High School : There was only one Vernacular High School in the district at Suchindram and it was run by the Government.

High level learning : Besides the primary, middle and secondary level educational institutions, there was also an arts college in the district (i.e.) the Christian College, Nagercoil. The Nagercoil Seminary about which a detailed account has been given in the chapter, grew slowly but steadily and attained the status of a Second Grade College in 1890s. This was one of the five colleges in the State in the year 1894, and in this year there were 19 pupils under instruction in this college.

Developments during 1896-98 : Even though there was no change in policy of the Government in disseminating education, the educational institutions witnessed a growth.

As regards the Government English Middle Schools, one more School was added and the total number of the schools in the district rose from three to four. A non-Government English Middle School was located at Boothapandi of Thovalai taluk. This was formerly a primary school for English Education run by the Government and later it was upgraded as an English Middle School.

In 1894, there were no private (without availing of aid) English Middle Schools in the district, but in 1896, there were such schools in the following places :–

Agasthiswaram taluk : [79] (1) Nagercoil L.M.S. English Middle School

Eraniel taluk : (1) Muttom English Middle School

In the year 1898, there were only eight private English Middle Schools without availing of Government aid in the State and two of them were in the district.

While there was no change in the number of English High Schools, there was a change in the number of Vernacular High Schools. The status of the only Vernacluar High School in the district, located at Suchindram was reduced to that of a middle school presumably due to lack of required strength. Then there were only two Vernacular High schools for the whole State, one at Trivandrum and the other at Parur. There was no further

growth of the Vernacular Middle School from 1895 to 1898 whereas there was progress in the expansion of the Vernacular Primary Schools. The details are given in the following table in clear terms :-

Name of the Taluk	Total No. of Govt. Ver. Pri. Schools		Total No. of Aided Ver. Pri. Schools		Total No. of private Primary Schools Which had not availed of Govt. aid	
	1895	1898	1895	1898	1895	1898
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Thovalai	8	19	19	19	13	25
Agastiswaram	9	12	63	57	23	47
Eraniel	12	19	77	75	70	84
Kalkulam	7	8	49	32	35	60
Vilavankodu	7	11	49	34	26	36

It can be seen therefrom, that the number of aided institutions, slightly had fallen while the number of Government schools and private institutions which did not avail of aid had risen up. This was mainly due to the withdrawal of either the Government grant to aided schools or taking charge of the institution by Government.

For degree courses, the only college in the district was Nagercoil Christian College (later, the name was changed as Scott Christian College). This was one of the five Colleges in the whole erstwhile Travancore Sate and of the remaining four, three were at Trivandram and one at Kottayam. Two of the three colleges at Trivandrum were run by the Government.

Progress of education in the district from 1899 to 1908 : In between the years 1899 and 1901, there were no remarkable changes either in the growth or in the Policy decision of the Government in the field of Education. But, a notable change took place in the year 1902, when a revised curriculum of studies was introduced in all the Schools of the state.[80] The classifications of the schools, that was in existence till then was done away with and a new pattern was introduced. Accordingly, the schools were classed as High, Middle, Upper Primary and Lower Primary. In the last two sets of schools (i.e.) Upper Primary and Lower Primary, vernacular was introduced as the chief medium of Instruction while English was taught as second language, commencing with Class III. High schools

and middle schools were further classed as English and Vernacular high schools and middle schools. In the former, which comprised Form I to IV, English was the medium of instruction, while in the latter which consisted of Classes V to VIII, vernacular was the medium, and the English was one of the subjects. In the English high schools, vernacluar was taught as the second language.

This process was devised with a good intention, so that a pupil who left a Vernacular High School would acquire as much knowledge in general subjects as a matriculate and as much knowledge of English as one who had completed his course in the fourth form of an English School.

The subjects prescribed for each class or form as the case may be, were chosen with great care and caution and varied in character. Drawing, hygiene, agriculture, and practical geometry were added and the syllabus to be covered in each class was reduced considerably with a view to attain greater efficiency and throughness in teaching. Rules were published prohibiting the use of other than approved readers and text books.

The new classification of schools necessitated the removal of Lower Primary Department from the English schools to the vernacular schools and consequently the English Primary Schools became vernacular primary schools.

After this reclassification of schools, the position of the educational institutions in the five taluks of then Travancore State, viz,., Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Eraniel, Kalkulam and Vilavankodu, which form the present Kanniyakumari district was as follows.

English High Schools : There was one English Government High School at Kottar and two aided English High Schools (i.e.) Girls High Schools and London Mission High School, both situated at Nagercoil.

English Middle Schools : There were four English Government Middle Schools located at Boothapandi, Eraniel, Thuckalay, and Thiruvattar,. Besides, there was one aided English Middle School at Marthandam (i.e) London Mission school and a private school at Nagercoil (i.e.) Union English School.

Vernacular High Schools : There was no vernacular High School in the area of the present Kanniyakumari district. For the whole Travancore State, there were only two vernacular High Schools at Trivandrum, one for Boys and the other for Girls. Co-education was however, not in vogue in

High School stage. Following were the vernacular middle schools in the district.

Government Vernacular Middle Schools : (1) Sucindram, (2) Kottar. (3) Eraniel (4) Kalkulam (5) Thiruvattar (6) Vilavankodu.

Aided Vernacular Middle Schools : (1) Nagercoil, (2) Neyyoor.

Lower and Upper Primary Schools : Total number of Lower and Upper Primary Schools in the district is given below. *

Name of Taluk	*Upper Primary Schools*			*Lower Primary Schools*		
	Govt.	*Aided*	*Private*	*Govt.*	*Aided*	*Private*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
Agasthiswaram	1	1	..	12	68	41
Eraniel	1	..	..	12	84	83
Kalkulam	1	..	..	8	34	59
Vilavankodu	2	..	..	10	38	37
Thovalai	..	..	..	10	21	28

* Source : Report on the Administration of Travancore State 1909-03 p-47

It has been already mentioned that right from yore there were indigenous schools in every village run by the Asans or indigenous school masters.[81] Most of the schools continued even during the early years of the 20th Century and that was why, there were more numbers of private schools of Upper and Lower Pirmary level. Some of these Asans held their position by virtue of heredity. In some cases, the parents of the school going population of the present set up in rural parts, must be the pupils of the present Asan or one of his ancestors. Hence, they held him in great reverence and considered his teaching the best they could secure for their children. In other cases, a half starved Asan waited on the influential man of village under whose patronage he would start a school, which would be largely attended by the children of that village. The people generely resented any insistence on regular attendence and strict discipline and the masters were reluctant to submit to the control and supervision of the educational authorities without which, no aid from State fund be given. It was under these circumstances that there existed a very large number of private schools not availing aid from Government. There were also a very few private schools which were teaching satisfactorily but as they were self-supporting, they needed no aid. The Travancore Government made

efforts to bring in more of these schools under the code by giving them liberal aid, as would be evident from the steady increase in then number of aided schools.

Other Educational Institutions : Besides these schools, the Nagercoil Christian College continued to function satisfactorily. During the year 1905, there were 37 pupils under instruction and the number rose to 44 in the very next year.[82] Another important educational institution, which continues to function even to-day which had its history from the beginning of this century, is Srimulam Ramavarma Technical school, at Nagercoil.. It was functioning as private technical school not availing Government aid upto 1902-1903.[83] From 1904 onwards it began to receive an annual grant from the State Government, and subsequently, from the year 1905-1906 this institution was taken charge by the State.[84] The trades taught during these years in the technical school, were Engineering, (elementary, intermediate and advanced) Draughtman course, Surveying, Masonry, Blacksmithy, Carpentry, and Weaving.

Besides this most important technical school by the year (1903-04) two other technical schools were also functioning in the district.[85] They were :–[86]

1. Mulagumodu Carpentry School and
2. Infant Jesus Technical School for lace making, Mulagumodu.

Education of the Backward Classes : Right from the dawn of the 20th century, even earlier, the policy of throwing open all Government Boys schools to Ezhavas (belonging to a backward community) was followed in all such schools with the exceptions of a few situated in localities inaccessible to Ezhavars. They too also were thrown open to them in 1908.[87]

Position in 1908 : To sum up the system or education and educational administration existed in the state in and prior to the year 1908, there were two types of schools, besides the colleges, to impart general education.[88] These two types of schools were classified according to the nature of their management, whether, *Sirkar or Private* as the case may be.

Private schools were either aided or not availing the aid. All the Sirkar and aided schools and a few of schools which did not receive aid, were recognised schools. All the recognised schools were subject to inspection by the competent authorities of the Education Department. According to

the standard of instruction imparted, the English schools were either High Schools or Middle Schools and the Vernacular schools were High, Middle, Upper Primary and Lower Primary Schools. Primary education was given in the Vernacular Primary schools and also in the primary classes attached to the Middle or High schools. Secondary education was given in the Vernacular Middle and High schools and in the English Middle and High schools. There was also a Law College at the Capital and five other arts colleges, which were affiliated, to the Madras University. Special education was given in the training schools, the Sanskrit schools and, in the Industrial schools.

In the first three years of the pirmary schools, instruction was given wholly through Malayalam. English was made as a second language only after 3rd year of Primary education. The classes I to III constituted Lower Primary schools and the classes IV was Upper Primary school. The Vernacular Middle schools had classes V and VI and Vernacular High Schools had Classes VII and VIII. In these two grades of Schools, instructions were given in the Vernacular, English being taught as a second language in the Middle and High Schools. Sanskrit also was taught in the High School.

The public examinations held were Vernacular Middle School Examination after Middle School Course and the Vernacular Higher Examination after the High School Course. The English Middle Schools had Forms-I, II and III while the English High Schools had form IV, V and VI. The course for the first four years in the primary schools was preliminary to the course in the English Middle School. Thus, the system of bifurcation of Schools into English and Vernacular was introduced after the fourth year course in the primary schools. The English schools prepared pupils eventually for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University.

The colleges prepared students for the intermediate examinations, and the degrees of B.A., and B.L., of Madras University. All the special schools except Sanskrit schools prepared the pupils for the Madras Technical Examination. The Sanskrit schools prepared students for the courses titled "Sastri", "Upadhyaya", and "Maha Mahobadhyaya".

The Government Schools, were maintained entirely from out of the public funds, the income derived from them by way of fees was considered departmental receipts. The private schools, received grants-in-aid, from the public funds.

Teachers were trained in the training schools. The course prescribed for Teacher's Training extended over a period of two years. At the end of the course, the trainees had to undergo written as well as practical examinations. There were two grades of examinations for the teachers in the English Schools, the trainees School Normal Certificate and the Middle School Normal Certificate. Similarly, there were two grades of examinations for the vernacular school teachers. viz. the Lower and Higher Vernacular Normal Schools.

There were no Normal Schools in the then South Travancore to train teachers of English Schools. But for the first time in 1884, a Vernacular Normal School was opened at Kottar, and it was one of the two such Normal Schools in the State, the other being at the capital of the State. But, in 1894, the Normal school at Kottar was abolished and the English Normal School and the Vernacular Normal School at the capital were amalgamated. As a result, by 1908, there were two Normal Schools, i.e., Government Normal school for male teachers and Government Normal School for female teachers and both of them were at Trivandrum. But, there were also 5 aided Normal Schools and one Normal School not availing aid in the State and one of those aided Normal School was in Nagercoil.

In the interest of administration, the State was divided into three Ranges, viz., Northern, Central and Southern and each Range was under the administrative control of one Inspector. Each Range comprised of four districts and was incharge of an Assistant Inspector. There were also some sub-Assistant Inspectors solely for the inspection of the primary schools.

Changes in the Educational Policy and the Progress of Education in the District from 1909 to 1955 : The system of administration in the Education Department had undergone a major reform during the year 1909 and was given effect to from 1st January 1909.[89]

Reform of 1909 :[90] The Educational Reform of 1909 in Travancore State Established the office of the Director of Public Instruction and the first Director was Dr.A.C. Nitchel. It is also worth mentioning that a similar office was opened in the Madras Presidency, as early as 1854 and Alexander Arbhutnot, an eminent educationist held the office for the first time, in the Madras Presidency.[91]

The Inspectors were under the administrative and disciplinary control of the Director of Public Instruction. Certain austerity measures were also taken, as detailed below :–

The number of Ranges were reduced from three to two and consequently the number of posts of Inspectors was also reduced to two. The number of districts and the Assistant Inspectors remained the same viz., 12. The posts of Sub-Assistant Inspectors were abolished.

On the otherhand, importance was attached for the periodical Inspection of schools. For the exclusive Inspection of Girls Schools, a post of Inspectress of Girls School was created, for the first time and four posts of Assistant Inspectresses of Girls schools were also created to assist the Inspectress of Girls schools. The system of education was as the same in previous years.

Changes in 1910-1911 : Considering the increase in workload in the administrative side of the educational institutions, it was felt necessary to increase the staff stength of the department and it fructified when a separate post of Inspector was created for the inspection of the Secondary Schools with European qualification and training. The first Inspector of Secondary Schools was Mr. J. Pryde.

The position of unrecognised schools in 1911 : The unrecognised schools were maintained by the private school masters and in most cases the 'Asans' or the unqualified and indigenous school masters ran the schools. All of them were of poor standard in imparting education when compared to the private aided or sirkar schools.

The educational policy of the Government was to discourage the existence of these institutions. The number of such schools had considerably gone down in the past few years. The department, also had seen that the pupils who left the unrecognised schools were provided with proper education in the recognised schools. The public also began to wean from the unrecognised schools. It is stated that nearly 20,000 was the strength of such schools during 1911.[92]

However, the number of unrecognised schools in the State was more than one thousand in 1916-17, even though the number of Government as well as private aided schools multiplied considerably.

The problem of the Government was that the students who came out of the schools could not be denied admission for higher courses of studies in recognised schools, but their standard of education was comparatively poor, since the unrecognised schools did not enforce strict discipline and efficiency in teaching.

Hence, it was planned by the Government to encourage the institutions to raise up to the level of the recognised schools in teaching, by granting them partial recognition and some pecuniary aid. Attempt was also made at Government side to bring them gradually into the fold of recognised institutions. Order was passed in the same year for the partial recognition of such schools and grants. Firstly, the order of the Government was implemented in the *Southern Range* as the number of private schools were more in this region. In the same years 170 schools of that category were granted partial recognition.

In course of time the private schools rose to the level of fully recognised schools and when the district was formed in 1956, the number of the private schools was very meagre.

School leaving certificates : It was in the academic year 1910-11, the department introduced the system of issuing the School Leaving Certificate for those who had successfully completed the Elementary and Secondary School Courses. Certificates, were issued at the end of elementary and secondary school studies. The certificates were issued under the supervision of a Board of Examiners chosen from the members of the professorial and Inspectorate staff and controlled by the Director of Public Instructions. The minimum marks in all subjects for entering into public services, were also fixed.

Changes brought in 1913-14 and thereafter : In order to intensify the system of inspection of the elementary schools for boys more effectively, the state was once again divided into three Ranges and consequently a post of Inspector and six posts of Assistant Inspectors were created.[93] The educational districts were also increased from 12 to 18.

From this year onwards the Adi-dravidas were extended the half fee concession in schools.

In the State six lower grade training schools for the men were opened and two were in South Travancore, one at Kuzhithurai and the other at Parur.[94]

At this stage, the elementary schools in the State witnessed heavy enrollment of pupils and to meet this situation, relief lower grade elementary schools were opened during 1914-15. On the whole 111 of such schools were opened in different parts of the State.[95] The Policy of throwing open the sirkar schools to all classes was steadily persisted. It was found that in some localities the provision of special schools to the backward classes was necessary.[96] So, managers of the private schools were encouraged to open and maintain more schools for the education of the students belonging to backward classes and the minimum strength of 25 required for grant-in-aid under code, was reduced to 16 in the cases of schools for the Backward Classes. In the year 1916-17, besides the large number of schools already opened for the welfare of the members of the Backward Classes, as many as 292 elementary schools for boys enrolled Sheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe pupils, having in mind to uplift their economic and social status.

The Urdu learning was also encouraged in order to satisfy the need of the Muslims. Arabic Munshies were appointed in ten elementary schools.

Tamil Education : Prior to 1915, Malayalam was the only medium of instruction in all the categories of Vernacular schools in the whole State, though Tamil was one of the subjects.

In the year 1915, with the object of affording facilitis for Tamil education in south Travancore and in Shenkottah taluk where Tamil is the mother tongue of the residents, it was ordered that, (i) in all departmental elementary schools in the taluks of Thovalai and Agasthiswaram both Malayalam and Tamil should be taught in classes I and II. (ii) that, in these schools either Malayalam only or Tamil only need be taught in Classes III and IV with reference to Tamil speaking or Malayalam speaking population as the case may be. (iii) that Malayalam might be introduced as an optional subject for pupils, whose compulsory language for the Elementary School Leaving Certificates was Tamil.

In the year 1921-22, a meeting was held by the Director of Public Instructions in the Tamil and partially Tamil speaking taluks, with a view to assess the working of the schools where Tamil was introduced as the chief medium of instruction and to examine the possibility of extending the educational needs of the Tamil speaking population, still further.

In the year 1922-23, in 22 boys schools, Tamil was introduced as the medium of instruction in class-I, but in two of these schools viz. Villukkuri and Udhayamarthandam, the teaching of Tamil was discontinued. In the next year (1923), the Tamil medium was introduced in 37 schools.[97] Higher and Lower Grade Examinations for teachers in Tamil were introduced for the first time, in the normal schools in the year 1923.

The number of schools in which Tamil was the medium of instruction in the area now in Kanniyakumari district was increased every year and when the district was formed in 1956, most of the schools had Tamil as the medium of instruction in primary, middle and high school levels.

The pattern of education and the number of various types of educational institutions continued to exist with minor modifications in the erstwhile Travancore State and even after the accession of Travancore State to Indian Union in 1949. The State Re-organisation Act, 1956 carved the Kanniyakumari district out of erstwhile Trivandrum-Cochin State and added in to the then Madras State. The position of educational institutions and the educational administration then prevailed has been dealt with in the following paragraphs.

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE EVE OF MERGER

The Director of Public Instructions of the Travancore-Cochin State was the Head of the Department of Education. Under his administrative control, were Inspectors, Inspectresses of schools in the Range level, Assistant Inspectors and Assistant Inspectresses in the educational district level. Later the posts of the District Educational Officers were created. The four taluks of Agasthiswaram, Kalkulam, Thovalai and Vilavancode which formed part of the erstwhile Trivandrum district were under the control of the District Educational Officer, Trivandrum up to 1954. With effect from 1 April 1954, the Nagercoil Educational District was headed by a District Educational Officer.[98] He was the pivot of administration as far as the Education Department in the District was concerned.[98A] He was having direct control over all high schools, training schools and special schools. He was assisted by a Personal Assistant in his office. The then Trivandrum Educational District was divided into many sub-districts each under the control of an Assitant Educational Officer. The Assistant Educational Officers were in charge of the Inspection of the primary and middle schools.

After Merger : When the district of Kanniyakumari was formed and added to the then Madras state in 1956, the Education Department of the State was headed by the Director of Public Instructions. He was assisted by subordinate officers and necessary complementary staff in his office at the State level. Besides,the posts of the Divisional Inspectors at Divisional level, the District Educational Officers at the educational district level and the Inspectresses of Girls School at the Circle level were created under the administrative and disciplinary control of the Director of Public Instruction. The entire State was divided into the two Divisions having head quarters at Madurai and Coimbatore. Each division was under the control of a Divisional Inspector. When Kanniyakumari district was formed, it was included under the control of the Divisional Inspector, Madurai, who was having jurisdiction over the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli. The entire Kanniyakumari district was formed as one education district and the post of District Educational Officer for the district was also created. Including the District Educational Officers at Kanniyakumari district, there were 15 District Educational Officers for the whole State.[99] Consequent on the Reorganisation of States 13 senior posts were transferred from Travancore-Cochin State to Madras State of which 4 posts came under Subordinate Educational Service.

When the district was formed in November 1956, there were 585 educational institutions of all categories in which 103225 male pupils and 81919 female pupils were studying. Of these 585 educational institutions, 344 were Government elementary schools, 82 aided elementary schools, and 15 were elementary schools without receiving any aid from Government.[100] The total number of boys in elementary schools were 64,587 and the total number of girls were 56,473. There were 39 Government secondary schools, 59 Mission schools, two schools without receiving aid, for boys and six Mission schools for girls. In all these boys schools 33923 boys and 20786 girls were studying. In all the girls schools 438 boys and 2840 girls were under instruction. In the primary section of the girls schools boys were also admitted. Basic schools under the new concept were also established and there were seven such Governemnt basic schools and one aided basic school having 1327 boys and 1116 girls on roll. For all these categories of schools, there were 1242 men teachers and 1123 women teachers imparting education.

Besides these, there were also two nursery schools viz., Duthie Nursery school, and London Mission Nursery school and one Kinder

Garten school, i.e. Home Church Kinder Garten School and a Drawing school by name, 'Chitra Drawing School'.

In regard to teachers training, there were three ordinary training schools for men, of which two were run by the Government and one by an aided private agency. In these schools, there were 136 boys and 60 girls as trainees. There was also one aided ordinary training school for women, in which 50 girls were under training. There was also one Government basic training school for men in which 56 boys and 15 girls were undergoing training.

In the technical education side, though there was no polytechnic, there were two Government and six aided Industrial Schools, where 195 boys and 66 girls were imparted training in various technical trades. There were also nine approved Commerical schools and 536 boys and 165 girls were attending these commerical schools.

SCHOOL EDUCATION :

Evolution of the Present Organisational set up of the Education Department of Tamil Nadu (with particular reference to Kanniyakumari district) : In the History of the Education of the Madras Presidency, the '*Despatch of* 1854' marks an era and it has been called the Magna Carta of English Education in India.[101] This Desptach suggested a separate department for the administration of education.

Shortly, after the receipt of the Despatch in 1854, The Government of Madras applied for authority to create the agency which was considered necessary for the supervision and direction of education. Consequently, new posts viz. Director of Public Instructions, 4 Principal Inspectors of Schools, 20 Zilla Visitors and sixty Sub-Assitant Inspectors were sanctioned. The first Director of Public Instructions was Mr. A.J. Arbuthnot.

Later, considering the increasing work load, the entire State was divided into two divisions with headquarters at Madurai and Coimbatore, under the adminitrative control of Divisional Inspectors. The Kanniyakumari Education District came under the control of the Divisional Inspector at Madurai along with other education districts of Madras North, Madras South, Chengalpattu, Thanjavur East, Thanjavur West, Dindigul, Madurai, Ramanthapuram, Virudhu nagar, Tirunelveli South, Tirunelveli North and Tirunelveli Central.[102] The Divisional Inspector of Coimbatore was having jurisdiction over the remaining education districts.

In the year 1962-63, the number of Education Divisions in the State was increased from two to four. The new Divisions were Madras and Tirunelveli. The district of Kanniyakumari came under the jurisdiction of the Tirunelveli Division.[103]

Prior to 1963, the area of the education district of Kanniyakumari with headquarters at Nagercoil was co-terminus with that of the Revenue district. But with effect from 24 August 1963, the education district was bifurcated and the new education district started functioning with headquarters at Thuckalai.[104]

A major change in the administrative set up of education in the state took place in the year 1965. Hitherto, there was only one Director for all kinds of education (i.e.) School, Collegiate, Technical etc. in the State. As the work load and burden had increased manifold in the administration, the Government bifurcated the administrative set up of the Department and consequently, a post of the Director of School Education and a post the Director of Collegiate Education were created in 1965, abolishing the post of the Director of pubic Instructions.[105] It should also be noted here that the administration relating to the legal studies and Technical Education were separated from the Director of Public Instructions in the year 1951 and 1957 respectively and thereafter new posts of Director of Legal Studies and Director of Technical Education were created in the respective years.[106]

Another important development in the State administration in the field of education was the creation of the posts of Chief Educational Officers in the year 1968-69, consequent on the abolition of the posts of Divisional Inspectors.[107] Ten posts of Chief Educational Officers were accordingly created. The revenue district of Kanniyakumari which had two education districts i.e. Nagercoil and Thuckalai, came under the control of the Chief Educational Officer at Tirunelveli.

Since the educational institutions have been more in the revenue district, it became necessary to form one more education district and consequently Kuzhithurai Education District was formed in the year 1973, bringing the total number of education districts in the Kanniyakumari Revenue district into three i.e. Nagercoil, Thuckalai and Kuzhithurai.[108] Though there were three District Educational Officers heading one Educational District each, the office of the Controlling Officer, (the Chief Educational Officer) was located at Tirunelveli. To remove this handicap

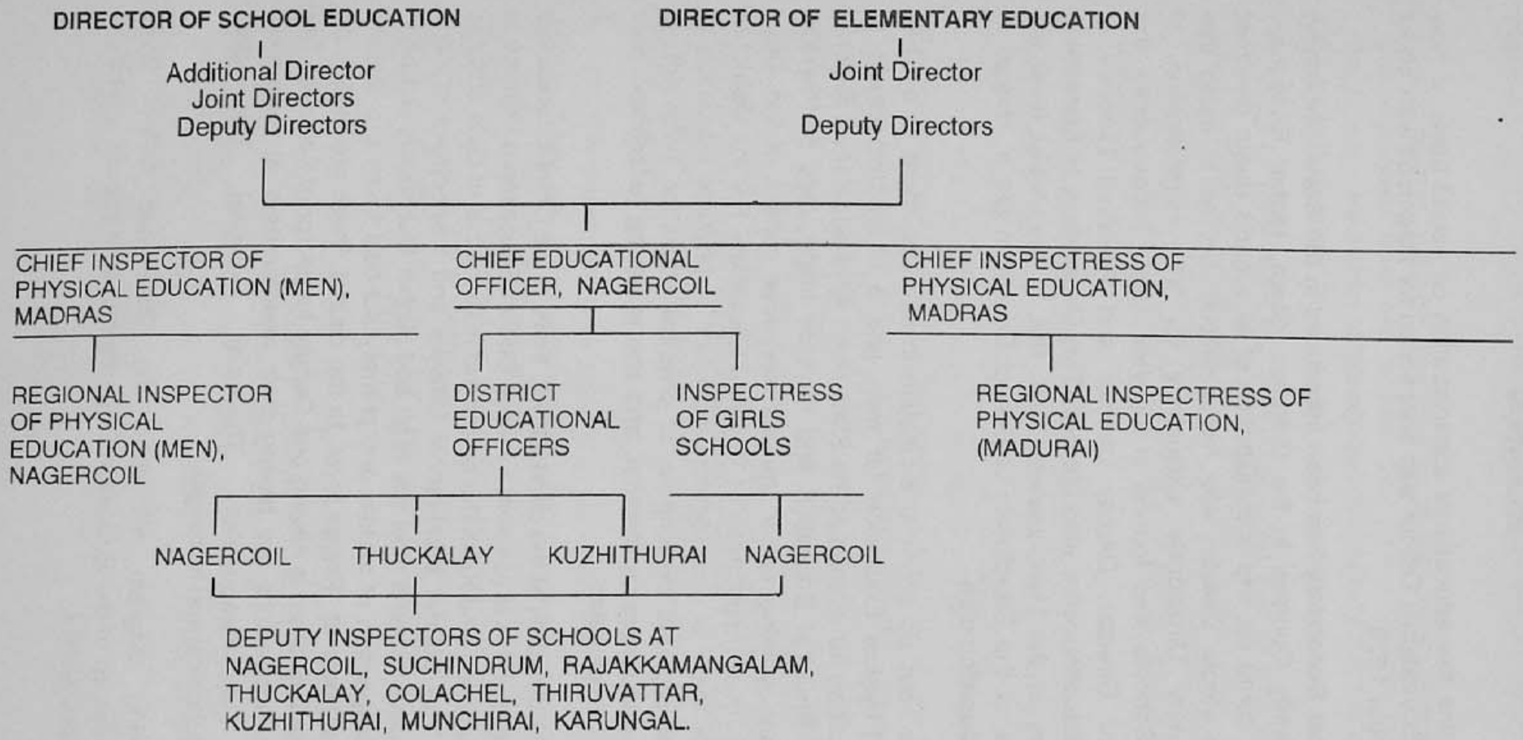
and to streamline the educational administration on sound basis, a new post of Chief Educational Officer was sanctioned for Nagercoil with effect from 5 September 1974.

Later, Higher Secondary has been introduced in the State, abolishing the Pre-University Courses in the Colleges. Since, Higher Secondary Schools have come up, the administration of all schools under one roof vis-a-vis by a single Director was found difficult. So, as to avoid this hardship a new Directorate exclusively for the administration of Elementary Schools was formed in the year 1986. Subsequently, the posts of Joint Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Diectors of Elementary education were also created. This Department is functioning separately only in the Headquarters level. But, in the district level the district officers of the Directorate of School Education are in charge of Elementary Education also.

In order to step up physical education in schools, there is a Chief Inspector of Physical Education for men and a Chief Inspectress of Physical Education for women at the State level. At regional level regional Inspectors of Physical Education and regional Inspectress of Physical Educational are working under the administrative control of the Chief Inspector and Chief Inspectress of Physical Education. For the district of Kanniyakumari there is one regional inspector of physical education at Nagercoil. The regional Inspectress of physical education (Women), is having her headquarters at Madurai, and she is having jurisdiction over Kanniyakumari district also.

For School Education at the district level, there is the Chief Educational Officer at Nagercoil. He is assisted by three District Educational Officers at Nagercoil, Thuckalay and Kuzhithurai and the Inspectress of Girls schools at Nagercoil. The District Educational Officers and Inspectress of Girls schools have direct control over the High and Higher Secondary Schools, while for the inspection of middle and primary schools there are Deputy Inspectors of schools at Range level. In the district, there are nine such Ranges and each of them is having one Deputy Inspector of Schools. The Range Deputy Inspectors are having their headquarters at Nagercoil, Suchindrum, Rajakkamangalam, Thuckalai, Colachel, Thiruvattar, Kuzhithurai, Munchirai and Karungal.

The following diagram will show the State and district level administrative set up of the Education Department, with special reference to Kanniyakumari district.


DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
Additional Director
Joint Directors
Deputy Directors
DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
Joint Director
Deputy Directors
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION (MEN), MADRAS
CHIEF EDUCATIONAL OFFICER, NAGERCOIL
CHIEF INSPECTRESS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MADRAS
REGIONAL INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION (MEN), NAGERCOIL
DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL OFFICERS
INSPECTRESS OF GIRLS SCHOOLS
REGIONAL INSPECTRESS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, (MADURAI)
NAGERCOIL
THUCKALAY
KUZHITHURAI
NAGERCOIL
DEPUTY INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS AT NAGERCOIL, SUCHINDRUM, RAJAKKAMANGALAM, THUCKALAY, COLACHEL, THIRUVATTAR, KUZHITHURAI, MUNCHIRAI, KARUNGAL.

Branches of School Education : The School Education in the State can be divided into three main branches. Elementary Education (imparted in the primary schools), Secondary Education (imparted in midle and high schools) and Higher Secondary Education (imparted in the higher secondary schools).

Primary Education : In the year 1956, when the district was carved out and added to the Madras State, there were six types of Primary or Elementary Schools in the district. They were :–

(1) Lower Elementary Schools, Standard I to V.

(2) Higher Elementary Schools, Standard I to VIII.

(3) Junior Basic School, Grades I to V.

(4) Senior Basic Schools, Grades I to VIII.

(5) Primary Departments of Secondary Schools Classes I to V.

(6) Primary Schools for Anglo Indians-Standard I to V.

Basic School : Basic Schools were new concepts in the 1950's in which the children besides the regular curriculum, had to learn many life oriented education. They included craft work like mat weaving and other handicraft works, gardening, moral instruction etc. The teachers were also specially trained in the newly opened Basic training schools for teaching in the basic schools.

Ordinary elementary schools in the State were converted into basic schools according to the facilities available in the schools such as space for gardening, implements for teaching crafts and the services of craft teachers etc. The ordinary normal schools or training schools were converted into either Junior Basic Training or Senior Basic Training Schools. Thus, importance was attached to basic training to the pupils.

Elementary Education : Elementary and Basic education consisted of 8 year duration by conducting classes from standard I to VIII or Grade I to VIII. This was re-organised in the year 1959-60. Under the re-organised schemes, the duration of elementary education-both ordinary and basic, was reduced to seven years.[109] This continued up to 1963-64, when the old pattern of eight years duration of elementary education and three years duration of secondary education was revived.[110] According to the new pattern introduced, there were two stages of elementary education.

Standard I to v-primary stage.

Standard VI to VIII-upper primary stage.

The secondary education consisted of the standards IX to XI.

This was the existing system of elementary education in the State.

Agencies which run schools : It should also be noted that the number of elementary schools run by the Government was the highest in the district *i.e.* 319 as in September 1986, when compared to the other districts. This was due to the taking over of all the aided primary schools by the Travancore-Cochin Government in order to introduce compulsory education. After the merger, the administration of these schools passed over to the Department of Public Instruction of the Madras State. According to provision of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1958, the Panchayat Unions in the State were entrusted with the management and maintenance of all elementary schools and accordingly they looked after elementary schools and elementary education. The teachers of all such schools run by the Panchayat Unions, were under the administrative control of the Panchayat Union Council. All such schools were known as the Panchayat Union Schools. But from 1980-81 the schools maintained by the Panchayat Unions were taken charge of the Education Department.[111] The posts of Assistant Education Officers were also created and posted for each Panchayat Union who were having supervisory control over the Panchayat Union Schools. However this question did not arise in respect of the Kanniyakumari district as there were no schools run by the Panchayat Unions. Also there was no necessity to create any post of Assistant Education Officer.

Compulsory Education : Education is indispensable to all the citizens of a country. Its importance has been dwelt upon by illustrious ancistors too. Particulary in a democratic country where citizens exercise their franchise to elect a body to govern them, education plays a vital role. But, education was neglected in the rural areas for some reason or the other. Hence, the Government drew up a plan to bring all the children of school going age compulsorily under education. Accordingly, the Government had taken a policy of introducing this compulsory education scheme stage by stage.

When the scheme of compulsory education was formulated (1930) in this State it was largely confined to certain Municipalities and in some of

the centres it was for boys only and in others it was made applicable to both boys and girls. Under the post war development plan, the scheme of compulsory education was introduced in a large number of rural areas and it was made applicable to both boys and girls.

In the then Travancore State, the compulsion was introduced in the year 1946-47 and in the first year of introduction itself the scheme covered 617 rural areas and 6 urban areas, while in then Madras Presidency, the district-wise number of centres where compulsory education was introduced, was very meagre.[112] For example, next to Kanniyakumari, the highest number of centres where the scheme was predominant was in Dharmapuri district viz. 31.

The scheme was applicable to the children under the age between 5 and 10 in the district, while in other parts of the State, the age group ranged from 6 to 11. This difference existed since the authority which introduced in Kanniyakumari district and in the then Madras State was not one and the same. The Native Government of erstwhile Travancore State, prescribed the age group for compulsion as 5 to 10, while in 1960-61 four years after the merger of Kanniyakumari district with Tamil Nadu, age for compulsory education was extended from 5 to 10 to 6 to 11.[113] Even now, the compulsory education is in force in the State and however, there are cases in rural areas where parents don't send their wards to schools instead utilise them to assist in their professions. The compulsory education will become cent per cent success, only if those who do not abide by the scheme are subjected to face judicial proceedings. Above all, unless the people realise that education is the backbone for upliftment of the economic and social status of their children and that it is a "Must" from the point of view of welfare of their children, cent per cent success can not be imagined.

Free Primary Education : Now, education upto higher secondary course is free in Government and aided schools. The system of abolition of the fee was not introduced all of a sudden. It was made gradually. Firstly, many concessions were extended in the payment of fee for the students of SC, ST and backward classes, under rule 9 of Madras (now Tamil Nadu) Educational Rules. With effect from academic year 1955-56, all school going children, the annual income of whose parents from all sources did not exceed Rs.1200 were exempted from payment of school fees up to and inclusive of Form III (present VIII std.).[114] The loss caused due to fee income to the schools because of the grant of concession, were fully compensated by the Government.

With effect from the academic year 1956-57, children of elementary school teachers employed in Government, local bodies and aided schools, police constables and head constables and last grade Government servants were given full fee concession instead of half fee concession in Forms IV to VI of secondary schools.

Instruction in elementary schools became generally free in all schools under public management in 1957-58.[115] But, it was open to private management to levy such rates of fees, as they deemed fit, in the case of pupils who were not eligible for fee concessions in their schools. Pupils, the annual income of whose parents was below Rs.1200 were allowed free education and the management was compensated for the consequential loss equivalent to fee income.

Up to 1964, primary education only was free in public schools and with effect from 1964, the tuition fees in secondary schools also were abolished and the education in the State, from I standard to XI standard was made free in the Government and aided schools.[116] However, special fees for laboratory, sports and games and for other specific purposes were allowed in aided schools. The tuition fee for Pre University Course, which was replaced now with higher secondary course, was also abolished in the year 1969-70.

Now, education is free and the Government bear the cost of education for all the classes of pupils without any caste or creed from first standard to higher secondary course in all Government and aided schools. The matriculation and other schools not availing of the Government aid, however levy tuition fees for these classes. Besides the fee concessions, scholarships are also sanctioned to the eligible Backward Class, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe pupils by the respective welfare departments of the Government and the details are given in the Chapter on "Other Social Services" of this Gazetteer. Apart from the scholarships awarded by the welfare departments, there are also scholarships such as Merit Scholarship, National Loan scholarship etc.

Scholarships to the rural pupils : Talented rural pupils are selected by conducting examinations in the panchayat union level. All those who have passed VIII standard can take part in the examinations. In each

panchayat union four of the highest scorer of marks in the examinations are selected and they are awarded the scholarship for their study from IX standard to XII standard.

National loan scholarships : For the higher secondary and college students, National loan scholarships are awarded irrespective of their community, to continue their studies,. Every year in the State about 1500 pupils are benefited by this scholarship. While sanctioning the National Loan Scholarship the candidates, performance in their previous examinations are taken into account. The loan scholarships are to be repaid and the recovery starts one year after the candidate begins to earn or after the lapse of three years since the award of the scholarship which ever is earlier. The amount of the repayment is based on the monthly income of the individual subject to a minimum of Rs.25.

Syllabus and text books : Syllabi for all the classes the elementary as well as secondary grades in all schools, have been revised suitably from time to time, according to the changing needs of time.

A major revision of syllabus was introduced in the year 1959-60 for Form IV and the nomenclature of that Form was changed as std. VIII.[117] In 1961-62, revised syllabus was introduced for Form VI and the nomenclature of that Form was changed as Std. X. Similarly, for Standard VI in non-basic elementary schools and Form I of Secondary Schools, revised syllabus was introduced and the nomenclature of Form I was changed into standard VI. In the next year i.e. 1962-63, revised syllabus was introduced in Form II of basic schools and in VII Std. of non- basic schools.[118] The nomenclature of Form-II of basic schools was also changed as standard VII.

Prior to the year 1963-64, Government prescribed the syllabus. Private book publishers with the approval of the Government were permitted to prepare text books according to the syllabus and the books so prepared by them, after scrutiny by the authorities were recommended as the approved text books. But from the year 1963-64, the policy of nationalisation of text books was introduced and initially Tamil books for standard I, II and VII,. English for std V and VII were published by the Government themselves, and thereby private publications for these subjects were dispensed with.

In 1964-65, the Tamil text books for stds.III, IV and V and English text books for std.IV were prepared and published by the Government and introduced in the respective classes.[119] Thereafter major revision of syllabus took places in the year 1965-66 and the revised syllabus was introduced in various classes in the following years :–[120]

Standard	*Years of introduction of new syllabus*
1. I to V	1965-66
2. VI and IX	1966-67
3. VII and X	1967-68
4. VIII and XI	1968-69

As a result of the introduction 10+2+3 pattern, in 1978-79, right form elementary to Collegiate education the syllabus was also suitably revised. The study of the elective subject in X std. and XI std. introduced in 1967-68 was also abolished and the subjects of study from the Std. III to X are Tamil or other languages, English, Science, Mathematics, History and Geography.

After the formation of Tamil Nadu Text Book Society in the year 1970 all the text books from I std. to collegiate courses are prepared, printed and published by the Society and the books are sold at subsidised rates so as to enable the parents of poor children to afford to buy. The text books are also distributed to the pupils free of cost (for details please refer chapter on "Other Social Services" of this Gazetteer). As India is a country of diverse languages English remains as the main "lingua franca". Hence, after careful consideration the study of English right from elementary level, has been introduced.

Formerly, in the vernacular schools, teaching of English started only from the VI std. or I Form. Later, in order to achieve the higher standard of attainment in English language, English was taught from std.IV from the year 1962-63.[121] In the subsequent year (1963-64) the teaching of English started from std. III. Now from the academic year 1987-88, English teaching has commenced from std.I.

Extension of elementary education : As the education upto primary stage has been made compulsory, it is obligatory on the part of the government to open primary schools all over the state.

School Strength in Kanniyakumari district : In Kanniyakumari district, roughly there are 85 villages having a population of more than 2,000, 133 villages having a population between 1,000 and 2,000 and 133 villages having a population ranging from .500 to 1,000. All these 351 villages have at least one school each. In some villages there are more than one school also. There are also 377 villages with population of 200 to 500 of which 126 of villages have schools and there are 418 hamlets having a population of less than 200 and in 44 of these hamlets there are schools. The pupils of the hamlets where there are no schools are attending the schools in the hamlets adjoining their own.

When the district was formed and merged with the Madras State, there were 344 Government Primary Schools, 82 aided private schools and 15 private schools receiving no aid from the Government.[122] There were 64216 boys and 56309 girls studying in the primary schools, there were 1242 men teachers and 1123 women teachers teaching in the primary schools. However the Government of Madras also either opened some new schools or aided to private management to open new schools in the district. The details are as follows:–[123]

Year of opening	*Place of opening*	*Agency which opened*	*Type of Schools*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*
1960-61	1. Veeyanoor	Government	Govt.Middle School
	2. Pullyoorala	-Do-	-Do-
	3. Karakonam	-Do-	-Do-
	4. Puthanthital	Aided	Aided Middle Scholl
	5. Yettacode	Aided	Aided Middle Scholl
1961-62	1. Edaicode	Aided	Aided High School
	2. Bathalpuram	Aided	Aided High School
1963-64	1. Kadamalaikadu	Aided	L.P.V.P.S.Aided High School
	2. Nagercoil	Government	Girls High School

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	3. Santhapuram	Aided	L.M.High School
	4. Marthandam	Government	Girls High School
	5. Kulasekarapuram	Aided	St. Ursula's High School
	6. Palliyadi	Aided	John's Reoney's Aided High School "
1964-65	1. Vilankumaravilai	Govt.	Govt.High School
	2. Rajakkamangalam	"	"
	3. Kattathurai	"	"
	4. Kandanvilai	"	"
	5. Palugal	"	"
	6. Vilavankodu	"	Govt.High School and Training School

As on 30 September 1986 there were 213 Government primary schools, 120 aided mission schools and 7 aided private schools. [124] The total number of middle schools was 146 of which 106 were run by the Government, 34 by mission (aided) and six by aided private agency. The total numbers of boys and girls studying in the primary and middle schools were 66723 and 63702 and 47463 and 48005 respectively. In the primary schools as in September 1980, there were 1170 men teachers and 2222 women teachers and the middle school there were 1001 men teachers and 1347 women teachers, teaching.

Medium of Instruction : Instruction in all classes of elementary and (not Anglo-Indian or other types of English schools) secondary schools is ordinarily in the regional language i.e. Tmail.[125] Pupils whose mother tongue is different from Tamil are given instruction in their mother tongue, provided there is a minimum strength of 45 pupils in each class from std. I to VIII. The district of Kanniyakumari was ruled by the Malayalam speaking kings and as an off shoot of it, there are villages in the border area of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where Malayalam is predominantly spoken. In such villages, in certain schools, Malayalam is offered as the medium of instruction in the primary and secondary level.

School Meals : Though the compulsory primary education is in force, the rural folks do not send their sons and daughters to schools because either they could not afford to bear even meagre expenses towards education or they want their children to assist them in eking out their lives in their own traditional work.

In order to inculcate a sense of responsibility in the minds of rural folk and with a view to attract the children to get admitted in schools, many incentives were introduced such as supply of free text books, dresses, etc., and the foremost among them was the provision of free mid-day meals in the schools. Whenever compulsion becomes successful, it has been successful not only due to the strict enforcement of the system by the Departmental staff and the kind co-operation of the public but because of these incentives also.

This movement was launched in July 1956 and at the outset it was a voluntary scheme. The Education department implemented it from out of the contribution of philanthropists.[126] The Government undertook the scheme with effect from Ist November 1957, and allotted a grant of six paise per meal for elementary schools only. In the first year in which the Government introduced the scheme, there were 8270 free mid-day-meals centres and 22884 pupils were fed in elementary schools and 385 centres were opened in secondary schools, where 12523 pupils were fed daily. The State annual expenditure was Rs.7.32 lakshs.[127]

This scheme proved success and later with effect from Ist July 1982, it was enlarged as the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme and by this scheme nutritious noon meal was provided to the children. More details in this regard may be seen in the chapter on 'Other Social Services' of this Gazetteer.

It may not be out of place to mention that in Kanniyakumari district, where the pioneers of education were the Missionaries, they attracted the pupils to schools in the early decades of last century, by providing them free meals, milk etc.

The tables 1 to 9 and the diagrams that follow furnish information, both revenue district-wise and education district-wise, about the total number of primary and middle schools, pupils and the teachers in the schools.

TABLE - 1

***Total Number of Pupils at the Schools In Kanniyakumari Revenue district (standardwise)**

(from std I to III)

Year	*STD-I*		*STD-II*		*STD-III*	
	B	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*
1973-74	23709	21208	22203	20343	20682	18904
1974-75	25000	22409	21865	19249	22430	19405
1975-76	27007	23956	23535	21514	22592	20436
1976-77	27056	23564	22224	21155	21582	20065
1977-78	27231	24887	23287	21730	22401	20653
1978-79	..		Not Available		..	
1979-80	..		Please See Table - 5		..	
1980-81	22363	21638	21202	20533	22658	21231
1981-82	22373	22323	21373	21758	22502	22548
1982-83	23417	23605	23269	23663	21881	22618
1983-84	23328	24815	23554	23300	23229	22036
1984-85	26241	25256	26667	23556	23650	23668
1985-86	27323	24994	23596	24622	23505	23237
1986-87	26616	26067	23992	23813	24204	23051
1987-88	32422	27793	23259	25084	22523	24476

* *Source* : Tables 1,2 and 3 - Report on Public Instruction in Tamil Nadu of Respective years (Both published and unpublished) - Director of School Education, Madras-6 and Report from the Director of School Education. dated 29 December 88.

TABLE - 2

Total Number of Pupils at the Schools In Kanniyakumari Revenue district (standard-wise)

(from std IV to VI).

Years	STD - IV		STD - V		STD - VI	
	B	G	B	G	B	G
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1973-74	19252	17437	17269	15094	12974	10546
1974-75	19782	17467	17149	15862	13641	10939
1975-76	20695	18328	18629	16519	13749	10992
1976-77	19426	17625	17839	15991	14672	11550
1977-78	21280	19265	18920	16782	14922	12053
1978-79	..		Not Available		..	
1979-80	..		Please See Table - 5		..	
1980-81	24007	23087	21017	20817	16037	14523
1981-82	23858	23578	22181	22785	16531	14112
1982-83	23543	23240	22657	22550	15913	13802
1983-84	23709	24456	23208	21386	16492	15977
1984-85	24073	23696	23019	22242	16909	15286
1985-86	24519	24446	23646	21665	18889	16518
1986-87	25101	24030	24633	24501	19522	16446
1987-88	25159	24055	21516	24231	18720	18325

TABLE - 3

Total Number of Pupils At the Schools In Kanniyakumari Revenue district (standardwise)

(STD-VII AND VIII)

Years	STD - VII		STD - VIII	
	B	G	B	G
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1973-74	11643	9242	9485	743
1974-75	11307	8765	9972	7723
1975-76	11470	9160	10205	7522
1976-77	11942	9503	10385	7989
1977-78	12510	10333	10892	8827
1978-79	..	Not available		..
1979-80	..	*		..
1980-81	13274	11535	12165	10245
1981-82	13913	11449	12764	10806
1982-83	14302	11909	13098	10616
1983-84	15017	13412	14679	12029
1984-85	15711	13729	14694	13091
1985-86	15687	15021	14377	13232
1986-87	16860	15462	15285	14654
1987-88	18009	16396	16290	15042

*** For the year 1979-80** **B G**

1. Total number of pupils in Primary Schools - 12358-107804
2. Total number of pupils in Middle Schools - 42820- 35648

TABLE - 4

*** Table showing the total number of Primary schools, pupils and teachers in Nagercoil Educational District Since 1956.**

Year	Total No. of Schools	Pupils Boys	Girls	Total No. of Teachers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1956-57	61	6314	5231	272
1957-58	61	6329	5457	257
1958-59	61	6350	5452	276
1959-60	61	6519	5351	282
1960-61	61	7086	5547	216
1961-62	61	6634	5626	321
1962-63	62	6745	6318	359
1963-64	62	8441	7132	456
1964-65	63	8381	7232	439
1965-66	64	8615	7522	445
1966-67	65	8613	8589	453
1967-68	65	9064	8012	461
1968-69	66	9280	9511	482
1969-70	67	9859	9271	537
1970-71	70	10470	9600	604
1971-72	71	10500	10431	596
1972-73	75	10750	9917	596
1973-74	77	11121	10431	600
1974-75	80	11851	11822	624
1975-76	81	11921	10999	623
1976-77	84	12944	11140	651
1977-78	87	12815	11410	668
1978-79	89	12746	11275	702
1979-80	88	15230	14864	856
1980-81	88	16251	15025	852
1981-82	88	13456	14949	854
1982-83	85	13551	14177	822
1983-84	84	13851	11410	817
1984-85	84	13105	14420	820
1985-86	84	13113	14370	820

* *Source* : District Education Officer, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari district-Report dated 21July 1985.

TABLE - 5

*** Table showing the total number of middle schools, pupils and teachers in Nagercoil, Educational District–since 1956.**

Year	Total No. of Schools	Pupils Boys	Pupils Girls	Total No.of Teachers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1956-57	44	5292	3850	187
1957-58	44	6812	3950	196
1958-59	44	6750	3850	190
1959-60	44	6760	4100	210
1960-61	43	5700	4001	205
1961-62	42	5250	3701	204
1962-63	42	5096	4910	211
1963-64	42	5453	4514	205
1964-65	42	5613	5692	225
1965-66	42	6713	6113	240
1966-67	42	6800	5917	240
1967-68	41	5951	4904	250
1968-69	40	5839	4969	314
1969-70	38	5831	5087	323
1970-71	38	6020	5280	330
1971-72	37	6011	5275	360
1972-73	37	6154	5174	368
1973-74	37	6364	5182	340
1974-75	37	6454	5389	356
1975-76	36	6538	5378	348
1976-77	35	6595	5448	356
1977-78	34	6879	5300	363
1978-79	28	5955	5847	364
1979-80	29	6912	6513	482
1980-81	27	7539	7253	436
1981-82	23	6324	6416	416
1982-83	28	6692	6869	419
1983-84	29	6293	6364	413
1984-85	28	4962	4766	331
1985-86	30	5082	5023	349

* *Source:* District Education Officer, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari district - Report dated 21 July 1988. &

Source: District Education Officer, Kuzhithurai, Kanniyakumari District - Report dated 13 August 1988.

TABLE - 6

*** Table showing the total number of primary schools, teachers and pupils in Kuzhithurai Education District from 1956-57.**

Years Boys	Total No. of Schools	Pupils Boys	Girls	Total No. of Teachers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1956-57	85	12073	12166	657
1957-58	85	12100	12340	561
1958-59	85	12180	12351	566
1959-60	83	12350	12340	601
1960-61	85	12401	12437	681
1961-62	81	12860	12646	683
1962-63	79	12996	12774	592
1963-64	79	12956	12836	700
1964-65	82	12912	12698	678
1965-66	80	13106	13063	686
1966-67	84	13508	13326	693
1967-68	124	20063	19554	914
1968-69	123	20497	19664	930
1969-70	123	22646	19725	930
1970-71	124	20686	19841	933
1971-72	125	20913	19645	942
1972-73	125	21067	19845	960
1973-74	127	21399	20011	955
1974-75	128	21456	20326	962
1975-76	128	21649	20188	970
1976-77	128	22301	20709	860
1977-78	122	22054	20898	1026
1978-79	119	21631	20996	1016
1979-80	122	22686	22098	1041
1980-81	125	22584	21238	1076
1981-82	125	22793	21823	1084
1982-83	124	23670	21688	1055
1983-84	131	27629	26537	1111
1984-85	130	29322	28674	1093
1985-86	128	29361	28761	1093
1986-87	129	25686	24881	1280
1987-88	125	29360	28460	1280

* *Source:* District Education Officer, Kuzhithurai, Kanniyakumari District - Report dated 13 August 1988.

TABLE - 7

Table showing the total number of Middle Schools, Pupils and Teachers in Kuzhithurai Education District since 1956

Years (1)	Total No. of Schools (2)	Pupils Boys (3)	Pupils Girls (4)	Total No.of Teachers
1956-57	30	10036	10149	490
1957-58	31	10050	10086	495
1958-59	31	10135	10137	509
1959-60	33	10305	10207	480
1960-61	35	10396	10286	554
1961-62	39	10546	10326	550
1962-63	41	11200	10615	558
1963-64	41	10703	8924	554
1964-65	41	10708	9905	549
1965-66	33	10605	9545	535
1966-67	50	11756	10672	832
1967-68	51	11913	10810	835
1968-69	51	11982	10920	867
1969-70	50	12001	10921	868
1970-71	50	12001	10921	868
1971-72	50	12001	10921	868
1972-73	48	11791	10715	854
1973-74	48	11791	10815	868
1974-75	47	12474	10963	890
1975-76	47	12324	10854	895
1976-77	48	12918	11536	962
1977-78	55	13228	11982	1004
1978-79	59	15095	13464	1032
1979-80	58	14800	14094	1025
1980-81	55	12655	11542	922
1981-82	53	12039	11953	924
1982-83	51	12073	11366	891
1983-84	51	10387	9573	900
1984-85	50	13334	12668	925
1985-86	52	13221	12682	916
1986-87	51	19158	18080	747
1987-88	55	19200	18280	750

TABLE - 8

Table Showing the total Number of primary schools pupils and teachers in Thuckalay Educational District since 1956.

Years	*Total* No. of Schhols	*Pupils* Boys	Girls	*Total No.of Teachings*
1955-56	66	5365	4533	446
1956-57	65	5285	4913	479
1957-58	65	6081	5117	569
1958-59	65	5869	5029	578
1959-60	64	8156	6542	578
1960-61	64	6783	5213	571
1961-62	64	7268	6130	584
1962-63	64	7749	6931	584
1963-64	63	7893	7043	584
1964-65	63	7588	6542	594
1965-66	63	7727	6901	609
1966-67	62	9683	7011	669
1967-68	60	10484	9615	682
1968-69	60	10355	8994	692
1969-70	65	10384	9515	692
1970-71	65	10654	9845	635
1971-72	91	13168	10831	785
1972-73	91	13146	12003	816
1973-74	91	12668	11982	819
1974-75	91	12686	11813	835
1975-76	92	11997	11802	840
1976-77	92	12965	11934	922
1977-78	92	13178	12183	966
1978-79	115	13151	12130	1004
1979-80	125	13499	12282	1054
1980-81	126	13236	12121	1064
1981-82	126	13298	12133	1084
1982-83	126	13381	12151	1083
1983-84	129	13452	12163	1093
1984-85	129	13698	12193	1050
1985-86	129	13621	12814	1142

Source: Report from the District Educational Officer, Thuckalay dated 25 November 88

TABLE - 9

* **Table showing the total number of middle schools pupils and teachers in Thuckalay Educational District since 1956.**

Years	*Total* No. of Schools	*Pupils* Boys	Girls	*Total No.of* Teachers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1955-56	32	7522	6589	427
1956-57	33	7690	6721	460
1957-58	34	8598	7113	570
1958-59	34	8080	7031	575
1959-60	35	8537	7541	575
1960-61	36	8704	8624	569
1961-62	38	9465	8213	581
1962-63	41	9931	8749	581
1963-64	42	10208	8791	581
1964-65	43	9916	8683	591
1965-66	43	9967	9132	606
1966-67	45	10855	10144	646
1967-68	45	13191	11213	672
1968-69	45	12631	11023	682
1969-70	45	13181	11223	682
1970-71	48	13561	11343	596
1971-72	48	15191	13213	713
1972-73	62	1533	14121	733
1973-74	62	15133	13821	734
1974-75	62	14903	13901	748
1975-76	62	14885	13219	752
1976-77	65	15175	14027	827
1977-78	65	15363	14141	870
1978-79	65	15386	14138	907
1979-80	66	15601	14323	957
1980-81	66	15671	14829	967
1981-82	66	15702	14851	987
1982-83	66	15739	14903	987
1983-84	66	15857	14931	997
1984-85	66	15886	14984	1047
1985-86	66	16172	15124	1042

* *Source:* Report from the District Education Officer, Thuckalay, dated 25 November 1988.

Secondary Education : Prior to 1966-67 the secondary education consisted of the upper primary education from std. VI to VIII and secondary education from std. IX to XI. The schools having classes either from std. I to XI or IV to XI or from IX to XI, were termed as Secondary schools. But, as the result of the reorganisation of secondary education in the year 1966-67, the secondary schools have been rechristened as High schools. The corresponding change of nomenclature in the year was that the upper primay shcools were renamed as middle schools with classes I to VIII or VI to VIII and the primary school continued with std. I to V. The secondary education was made free with effect from 1964 (Ref.G.O.Ms.No. 575, Education, dt.21-4-1964) and prior to that, tuition fee was to be paid by pupils for secondary schools.

Position when Kanniyakumari district was formed in November 1956 : When the district was formed in November 1956, there were 41 Government boys secondary schools, 59 aided mission boys secondary schools, two boys secondary schools not availing Government aid. In all these schools, 3,393 boys and 20,786 girls underwent education. Besides six aided Mission girls secondary schools were running where 438 boys and 2840 girls studied.[128]

Development in 10 years since formation of the district : In the year 1966 , the total number of Government secondary schools was 50 including two Government girls secondary schools. The aided mission secondary schools were 71 including 12 for girls where 46733 boys and 32961 girls were taught. Thus, there were 121 high schools in the district in 1966 to disseminate secondary education. The education pattern of the State has undergone a major change in the year 1978-79 and it was the introduction of the higher secondary education(10+2+3 pattern). The two year higher secondary course was added to the high schools and as a result, many high schools were upgraded as Higher Secondary Schools and thus the number of high schools in the district was reduced apparently, though the high school course are there.

Position after the Introduction of Higher Secondary Education : On the eve of the introduction of higher secondary education in 1977-78, there were 56 Government high schools 30 aided mission high schools, 18 non-mission aided schools for boys and 5 Government high schools, 12 mission aided schools and 2 non-mission aided schools for girls in the district. The total number of all the categories of high schools was 123. In

the next year, the total number of high schools in the district dwindled to 78 (boys schools-64 and girls schools-14). The fall in the number of high shcools was due to the up-gradation of the high schools to the status of higher secondary schools.

As in September 1986, there had been 61 Government high schools 46 aided mission high schools and 57 aided mission high schools for girls. Besides these schools which are following the syllabus prescribed by the State Board of Tamil Nadu Secondary Education, there are also two matriculation schools and one central board of secondary school following the respective syllabus.

Another important repercussion of the introduction of the higher secondary education on the high school education is the reduction of duration of study in the high school level. Previously, the high school study consisted of 3 years course (Std. IX, X and XI) and after the higher secondary course came into force, the Std.XI was abolished in the high school level and it was merged with higher secondary course. The secondary school leaving certificate examination is conducted at the completion of ten years study (5 years - Primary school, 3 years - Middle school and 2 years - High School). Normally, at the middle school level all the schools come under co-education. At the high schools level, most of the schools come under co-education, except a few, which are exclusively either for boys or for girls.

Mobile science vans : In order to cater to the needs of secondary schools running in rural areas which lack facilities for teaching science, Mobile Science Laboratory Vans are provided since 1972-73. Each educational district is provided with one such van and in Kanniyakumari district, there are three educational districts i.e. Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai and Thuckalai and each of them is provided with one van. The van is under the control of a deputy inspector of schools (science) and he tours in the van to all schools, demonstrates the science experiments, and thus educates the pupils.

Higher Secondary Education : The educational pattern in Tamilnadu till 1977-78 constituted 11 years study in elementary and high schools and one year pre-university course and 3 year degree course at Colleges (11 + 1 + 3).

The 11 year S.S.L.C. course and one year pre-university course made their exeunt and the ten years S.S.L.C course and two year higher secondary course made their debut in 1978-79.

Consequently, during 1977-78, the students who studied in both the classes of tenth and eleventh in the high schools appeared for the examinations of secondary school leaving certificates and the successful and eligible candidates of the former joined the pre-university courses at colleges and the latter in the first year of the two year higher secondary courses attached to the select high schools nomenclature of which have been changed as higher secondary schools.

This new education policy has been evolved as two streams viz., general and vocational to meet the needs of the different categories of the students. The main object to locate the plus two stage in schools is to extend the benefit of higher secondary education to every nook and corner of the State, especially to the rural population. There are various types of syllabus to Matriculation and Ango-Indian Schools upto S.S.L.C. level, but at the higher secondary level, the syllabus is uniform throughout the State.

But this syllabus is not however applicable to the central government schools. While introducing the higher secondary pattern of study care was taken to see that there is atleast one higher secondary school in a panchayat union area.

Introduction of higher secondary courses : In Kanniyakumari district, the higher secondary courses were attached to 42 boys high schools and 5 girls high schools. While this pattern was introduced, there were nearly 5 higher secondary schools in each panchayat union, in an average. As on 30 September 1988, there were 33 Government higher secondary schools, 37 aided-mission and 12 aided non-mission higher secondary schools functioning in the district, which include 8 higher secondary schools for girls. Of these eight, two schools are run by the Government, five by the aided missions and the remaining one by an aided non-mission agency. The following tables 'A to J' will show the progress and growth of high school education since 1973-74 and higher secondary education in the district since its introduction.

The details such as total number of high and higher secondary schools, pupils and teachers are dealt both revenue district and educational district-wise in the tables :

TABLE - A

*** Table showing the total number of high schools, pupils and teachers in Nagercoil Education district from 1956-57.**

Years	*Total No. of schools*	*Pupils*		*Total No.of teachers*
		Boys	*Girls*	
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1956-57	12	5747	2172	402
1957-58	12	6142	2227	392
1958-59	12	5891	2064	408
1959-60	14	7338	2836	494
1960-61	17	6969	3455	500
1961-62	19	8155	3753	627
1962-63	20	8733	3813	560
1963-64	20	8965	4049	664
1964-65	20	9277	4409	681
1965-66	20	9494	4675	708
1966-67	20	9596	5251	732
1967-68	21	10280	5182	691
1968-69	23	10859	6127	750
1969-70	25	11454	6584	792
1970-71	26	13163	7044	817
1971-72	27	12338	7483	859
1972-73	27	2767	7455	803
1973-74	27	3208	7431	899
1974-75	27	2924	7409	905
1975-76	28	13671	8072	919
1976-77	29	14000	8329	892
1977-78	30	14421	9055	958
1978-79	18	6098	5239	440

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1979-80	18	6248	5093	453
1980-81	18	6776	5347	488
1981-82	21	7377	6004	512
1982-83	21	7383	5648	512
1983-84	22	9415	6108	525
1984-85	21	7406	5550	521
1985-86	19	6974	6372	475

Source : District Education Officer, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari district. Report dated 21 July 1988.

TABLE - B

*** Table showing the total number of high schools pupils and teachers in Thuckalai Education district from 1956–57.**

Years	*Total No. of schools*	*Pupils*		*Total No.of teachers*
		Boys	*Girls*	
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1955-56	46	28994	27691	1114
1956-57	47	29441	27980	1114
1957-58	50	30871	28815	1280
1958-59	50	30466	28621	1280
1959-60	51	31244	30843	1294
1960-61	56	32666	30921	1278
1961-62	58	34104	32483	1306
1962-63	58	35906	33681	1309
1963-64	59	36746	34741	1362
1964-65	59	36436	34620	1382
1965-66	59	36531	35524	1427
1966-67	59	39013	36942	1507
1967-68	59	41162	39893	1547
1968-69	60	40310	39683	1677

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1969-70	63	41489	39963	1724
1970-71	63	41998	40215	1872
1971-72	63	44916	43425	2012
1972-73	65	45812	44531	2052
1973-74	65	45803	45519	2045
1974-75	65	45799	44503	2064
1975-76	65	45702	44419	2069
1976-77	41	21415	20103	1087
1977-78	41	21673	20245	1110
1978-79	41	21297	20621	1140
1979-80	45	21284	20114	1148
1980-81	45	21726	20317	1148
1981-82	45	21897	20415	1168
1982-83	45	21958	20409	1165
1983-84	45	21891	20374	1175
1984-85	46	22069	20418	1225
1985-86	46	21050	20813	1215

* **Source :** District Education Officer, Thuckalai. Report, dated 21 July 1988.

TABLE - C

*** Table showing the total number of high schools, pupils and teachers in Kuzhithurai Education district from 1956-57.**

Year	*Total No. of schools*	*Pupils*		*Total No.of teachers*
		Boys	*Girls*	
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1956-57	7	8626	5235	494
1957-58	8	8789	5404	532
1958-59	10	9160	5726	549
1959-60	15	10085	5626	588

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1960-61	15	10275	5598	637
1961-62	16	10669	5945	708
1962-63	19	10256	6079	737
1963-64	20	12083	6028	780
1964-65	21	12047	6673	772
1965-66	21	12099	6879	801
1966-67	23	13891	7207	870
1967-68	24	15464	8090	914
1968-69	26	15817	8543	918
1969-70	26	16457	9238	937
1970-71	26	16645	9157	966
1971-72	27	16665	8965	983
1972-73	27	16709	9196	982
1973-74	27	16678	9165	1005
1974-75	28	16540	9395	1011
1975-76	29	16486	9231	1034
1976-77	29	16113	9294	1051
1977-78	35	17101	9256	1099
1978-79	30	17490	9781	1106
1979-80	30	3799	2820	252
1980-81	26	6196	5314	437
1981-82	31	7926	5603	509
1982-83	32	8170	6642	524
1983-84	32	8463	1765	512
1984-85	32	8683	7317	577
1985-86	31	9058	7780	583
1986-87	30	11029	9318	638
1987-88	30	12025	9500	642

* *Source :* District Education Officer Kuzhiturai, Kanniyakumari district, Report, dated 13 August 1988.

TABLE – D

Table showing the total number of higher secondary schools, pupils and teachers in Nagercoil Education District since Inception i.e. 1978-79.

Years (1)	Total No. of Schools (2)	Pupils Boys (3)	Pupils Girls (4)	Total No.of Teachers (5)
1978-79	15	15196	6543	811
1979-80	15	144459	5401	781
1980-81	17	16201	7204	922
1981-82	18	14900	7676	969
1982-83	18	16799	7737	956
1983-84	18	16600	6253	956
1984-85	19	16506	7351	1004
1985-86	21	17464	8274	1063

* *Source :* District Education Officer Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari District, Report dated 31 July 88.

TABLE – E

*** Table showing the total number of higher secondary schools pupils and teachers in Kuzhithurai Education District since Inception i.e. 1978-79.**

Year (1)	Total No. of Schools (2)	Pupils Boys (3)	Pupils Girls (4)	Total No.of Teachers (5)
1978-79	8	15855	8103	941
1979-80	11	15727	8521	942
1980-81	17	15921	9404	1027
1981-82	22	12738	9226	1104
1982-83	23	13775	9332	1093

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1983-84	23	13775	9332	1093
1984-85	23	12780	9613	1092
1985-86	24	14053	10029	1108
1986-87	26	15619	12090	1217
1987-88	26	15620	12595	1225

* *Source :* District Educational Officer, Kuzhithurai, Kanniyakumari district, Report dated 13 August 1988.

*** Table showing the total number of higher secondary schools in Thuckalai Educational District.**

Year	Total No. of schools	Pupils Boys	Girls	Total No.of teachers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1976-77	24	27441	23501	1070
1977-78	24	26237	24905	1097
1978-79	24	26590	24689	1141
1979-80	24	26505	24879	1249
1980-81	24	26790	24799	1149
1981-82	24	27925	23170	1173
1982-83	25	26769	24901	1171
1983-84	25	26118	25898	1181
1984-85	25	27135	24989	1231
1985-86	25	27449	24873	1221

* *Source :* Report from the District Educational Officer, Thuckalai, dated 21 August 1988.

TABLE - F

*** Table showing the total number of pupils at the schools in Kanniyakumari revenue district (Standard-wise from standard ix to xi).**

Year	Standard IX		Standard X		Standard XI	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1973-74	8462	5902	7652	5515	7010	5511
1974-75	8337	5393	7783	5543	7236	5554
1975-76	8545	6409	7761	5496	7634	5620
1976-77	8906	6465	7071	5257	8274	6075
1977-78	9796	7067	8330	5836	6524	4899
1978-79	NA	NA	NA	NA	@	@
1979-80	*	*	*	*		
1980-81	10140	7911	8369	6271	–	--
1981-82	10662	7922	8328	6517	–	--
1982-83	9581	6765	8274	5662	–	–
1983-84	11054	9325	9278	7590	–	–
1984-85	10450	9857	9351	7286	–	–
1985-86	11207	10351	8981	8263	–	–
1986-87	11593	10682	8453	9094	–	–
1987-88	12391	10496	8752	8298	–	–

@ As a consequence of the introduction of higher secondary education the standard XI as S.S.L.C. was abolished with effect from 1978-79.

* In the year 1979-80 the total number of boys and girls in High Schools in the district were 17916 and 13608 respectively.

NA : Not Available.

* *Source :* For tables F to J-Reports on Public Instruction in Tamil Nadu- Director of School Education of respective years (both published and unpublished)

TABLE-G

Table showing the total number of boys and girls in the higher secondary schools in Kanniyakumari revenue district since 1978-79

Year	*Standard XI*		*Standard XII*	
	Boys	*Girls*		
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
1978-79	NA	NA	NA	NA
1979-80	@	@	@	@
1980-81	4457	3453	3911	3286
1981-82	4762	41O1	3796	3475
1982-83	4166	3963	3758	3619
1983-84	4148	3918	3402	3728
1984-85	4459	4451	3617	3650
1985-86	5144	4737	4076	3707
1986-87	41721	4663	4045	4034
1987-88	4433	5156	4062	4553

NA Not Available

@. The Total number of Boys and Girls in the I and II years of Higher Secondary School in the year 1979-80 were 7845 Boys and 6346 Girls.

TABLE - H

Table showing the total number of pupils in each group of higher secondary (general course) medium-wise as in 1985-86, Kanniyakumari Revenue District.

		I Group		*II Group*		*III Group*		*IV Group*	
		Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*	*(10)*
Ist Year	Tamil Medium	1127	1089	691	723	-	-	280	312
	English Medium	756	558	392	354	-	260	351	131

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
II nd Year	Tamil Medium	990	330	765	483	-	-	505	474
	English Medium	605	517	325	373	233	291	235	159

I Group : Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

II Group : Physics, Chemistry, Botony and Zoology.

III Group : Maths, Economics, Accountancy and Commerce.

IV Group : History, Economics, Accountancy, Commerce, Ethics and Indian Culture, Politics, Geography, Advanced Tamil , Advanced English, Home Science, Logic, Sociology, Psychology Computer Science, etc.

TABLE - J

Table showing the total number of candidates appeared and passed in SSLC and higher secondary examinations.

Year	*S.S.L.C.*				*Higher Secondary Exam.*			
	Total candidates appeared		*Total Candidates passed*		*Total Candidates appeared*		*Total Candidates passed*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*
1981-82	7828	6105	3330	3053	–	–	–	–
1982-83	7711	6347	3662	3301	–	–	–	–
1983-84	7662	6525	4290	4038	–	–	–	–
1984-85	7676	7124	4675	4268	–	–	–	–
1985-86	8360	7821	4810	4520	–	–	–	–
1986-87	8643	8167	4374	4535	4210	4333	2899	3003
1987-88	8816	8472	4399	4296	4293	4600	2053	2395

Syllabus : The higher secondary course is broadly classified into general and vocational. The general course is further sub-classified into groups of Science and Arts. Previously, in the Pre University courses, there were three groups i.e. Maths, Science and Arts. Those who studied Maths group were eligible to choose Engineering and allied and other subjects for degree course and those who studied Science were eligible to choose Medicine and its allied and other subjects for their further degree

courses and those who studied Arts group were eligible to choose various arts degrees for their further studies.

But, in higher secondary courses, the maths and science are made inter-dependent and besides Part I (Tamil or other languages) and part II (English), four subjects have to be studied in part III. They are :–

I. Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology *or*

II. Botany, Zoology, Physics and Chemistry *or*

III. Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Siddha.

Candidates who select the group I and successfully complete the course with required marks are eligible to carry on their further study, either in Engineering or medicine or in any Science, Maths Arts degrees, (B.A., B.Sc.) etc. The candidates who select the other Science Groups II and III could pursue his education only in Medicine or other Science or Arts degrees but not Engineering.

In the Arts group under Part III there are various subjects, for the degree course some of them are History, Geography, Elements of Commerce, Economics, Principles of Accountacy, Advanced Tamil, Advanced English (Literature), Politics, Music, Nutrition etc.

The medium of instruction is either Tamil or English. During 1986-87, the Government abolished the combined Maths- Science group and prescribed either Science group consisting of the subjects viz, Botany, Zoology, Physics and Chemistry and Maths group consisting of Maths-I, Maths-II, Physics and Chemistry. But, in the next academic year, 1987-88 the combined Maths-Science group was brought back, retaining the syllabus that was followed till 1985-86.

Vocational Education : Besides the academic or general courses, vocational courses are also taught in the high school level so as to enable those students to seek jobs on the strength of their vocational education or to go in for self-employment for which the course may be useful. For further studies in specific subjects also, the courses serve as the stepping stone.

Other courses taught in higher secondary level : In the higher secondary schools of the district, Agricultural courses like Crop Production, Plant Production and Sericulture and Agriculture, Engineering courses like Electric Domestic Appliances, Electrical Motor Rewinding

General Machinist, Printing Technology, Draughtsman (Civil and Mechanical) Computer Programming, Building Maintenance and Radio Maintenance, Commerce and Business courses like, Accountancy and Auditing, Office Secretaryship, Banking Assistant, Co-operative Management and Insurance, Home Science courses like Designing, Dying and Printing and Dress Designing and Making, Health Courses like, Medical Lab Assistant and Nursing and Teacher Training Courses like, Pre-School and secondary grade Teachers Training are taught. [129]

THE NAMES OF THE VOCATIONAL COURSES AND THE HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH OFFER THEM IN THE DISTRICT ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLE BELOW :-

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of the course taught (2)*	*Name of the H.S.S., where the course is offered (3)*
I. AGRICULTURE –		
1.	Crop Production	– Govt. Higher Secondary School, Boothapandi.
2.	Plant Production	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Aralvoimozhi.
		2. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulasekaram.
		3. A.V.D. Higher Secondary School, Ganabathipuram.
		4. Govt. Tribal Residential Higher Secondary School, Pechiparai.
3.	Plant Production (Spices and plantation crops)	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kollancode.
4.	Sericulture and Agriculture	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
		2. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Arumanai

II. ENGINEERING –

1. Electric Domestic Appliances.

1. SMSM Higher Secondary School, Sucindram.
2. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thovalai.
3. Scott. Xian Higher Secondary School, Kurathiarai.
4. SLB (Girls) Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
5. D.V.D. Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
6. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Eraniel.
7. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulasekaram.
8. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thuckalai.
9. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Christukoil.
10. St. Josephs. Higher Secondary School, Chellankonam.
11. St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Colachel.
12. AVD, Higher Secondary School, Ganapathipuram.
13. Babuji, Memorial Higher Secondary School, Manavalakurichi.
14. Sarojini, Memorial Higher Secondary School.
15. L.M.P.C. Higher Secondary School
16. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Munchirai.
18. St. Benedict's Higher Secondary School, Mangalakunnu.

	19. St. Francis Higher Secondary School, Vavari.
	20. St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Melappalai
	21. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Mathicode.
	22. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karungal.
	23. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Nattalam.
	24. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
2. Electrical Motor Rewinding,	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kottaram.
3. General Machinist.	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Boothapandi.
	2. Scott. Christian Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	3. DVD/Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
4. Printing Technology	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kollencode.
5. Draughtsman (Civil and Mechanical)	1. Agasthiswaram Govt. Higher Secondary School.
6. Computer Programming.	1. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulasekaram.
	2. A.V. Higher Secondary School, Mathicode.
	3. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
7. Building Maintenances.	1. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Zionpuram.
8. Radio and Television Maintenance.	1. A.M. Higher Secondary School, Maruthancode.

III COMMERCE AND BUSINESS –

1. Accountancy and Auditing.	1. St. Antony's Higher Secondary School, Mylaudy.
	2. Aralvoimozhi, Higher Secondary School.
	3. Kottaram Higher Secondary School.
	4. Agastiswaram Higher Secondary School.
	5. SMRU, Higher Secondary School.
	6. Azhagappapuram Higher Secondary School.
	7. Kumarapuram Thoppu Higher Secondary School.
	8. Edalakudi, Higher Secondary School.
	9. Thazhakudi Higher Secondary School.
	10. Vettoornimadam Higher Secondary School.
	11. Carmel Higher Secondary School.
	12. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Thamarakulam.
	13. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kattuthurai.
	14. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Monikettipottal.
	15. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Soorankudi.
	16. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulasekaram.
	17. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thiruvithankodu.
	18. St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Asaripallam.
	19. V.K.P. Higher Secondary School, Colachel.
	20. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Kadamalaikuntoo.
	21. Devaswam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu.

	22 Arunachalam Higher Secondary School, Thiruvattar.
	23. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Munchirai.
	24. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Palugal.
	25. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
	26. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Arumanai.
2. Office Secretaryship.	1. SMSM - Higher Secondary School, Sucindram.
	2. Agasthiswaram, Higher Secondary School.
	3. SMRV, Higher Secondary School.
	4. James Town Higher Secondary School.
	5. Scott. Christian Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	6. SLB. Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	7. Carmel Higher Secondary School.
	8. AVD. Higher Secondary School.
	9. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Eraniel.
	10. V.K.P. Higher Secondary School, Colachel.
	11. St. Mary Goretty, Higher Secondary School, Manalikkarai.
	12. LMS Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
	13. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Mathandam.
3. Banking Asst.	1. St. Lawrance Higher Secondary School, Madathattuvilai.

	2. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulasekaran.
	3. St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Mulagumoodu.
	4. Higher Secondary School, Arumanai.
	5. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kollencode.
	6. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
4. Co-operative Management	1. Aided Higher Secondary School, Mottacode.
	2. Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Marthandam
5. Insurance	1. Govt. Tribal Residential Higher Secondary School, Pechiparai.

IV. HOME SCIENCE –

1. Designing and Dyeing	1. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Christukoil.
2. Dress Designing and Making	1. L.M.S. Higher Secondary School, Kadamalaikuntoo

V. HEALTH –

1. Medical Lab Asst.	1. LMS. Higher Secondary School, James Town.
	2. Aided Higher Secondary School, Arumanai.
	3. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
2. Nursing	1. S.A. Higher Secondary School, Vettoornimadam.
	2. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thuckalai.
	3. St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Chellankonam.

4. LMS. Higher Secondary School. Christukoil.

5. St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Colachel.

6. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Kadamalaikuntoo.

7. St. Mary's Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikkarai.

8. L.M.P.C. Higher Secondary School, Puthalam.

9. Dr. Samuel Higher Secondary School, Santhapuram

10. Aided Higher Secondary School, Yettacode.

VI. SECONDARY GRADE TEACHER TRAINING –

(For Girls Only)

1. Higher Secondary School, Mylaudy.
2. Higher Secondary School, Kottaram.
3. Higher Secondary School, Agastiswaram.
4. James Town Higher Secondary School.
5. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thovalai.
6. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kattuthurai.
7. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Monikottipottal.
8. St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Colachel.
9. St. Lawrance Higher Secondary School, Madathattuvillai.
10. Sarojini Memorial Higher Secondary School, Orappanvilai.
11. Babuji Memorial Higher Secondary School, Manavalakurichi.

12. Aided Higher Secondary School, Yetta code.

13. St.Mary Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manavalakurichi.

14. Dr. Samuel Higher Secondary School, Santhapuram.

15. St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Mulagumoodu.

16. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kadayal.

17. St. Bernadett's Higher Secondary School, Mangalakunthu.

18. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Mathicode.

19. St. Francis Higher Secondary School, Melappalai.

20. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Mathicode.

21. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karungal.

22. T.C.K. Higher Secondary School, Padanthalumoodu.

23. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.

24. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Arumanai.

GIRLS SCHOOLS :–

I. ENGINEERING –

1. Draughtman (Women) (Civil and Mech.)	Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottar.

II. COMMERCE AND BUSINESS –

1. Accountancy & Auditing	1. Duthie Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.

	2. Little Flower Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	3. Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
	4. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
2. Office Secretaryship	1. Little Flower Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	2. St. Joseph's Convent Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
	3. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
	4. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
III. HOME SCIENCE -	
1. Catering	1. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Higher Secondary School.
2. Dress Desgining and Making.	2. St. Josephes Convent Higher Secondary School, Nagerocil.
3. Pre-School Teacher Training	1. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
IV. HEALTH–	
1. Medical Lab. Assistant	1. LMS. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
2. Nursing.	1. LMS Girls Higher Secondary School, Neyyoor.
	2. LMS Girls Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
	3. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
3. Ophthalmic Technician.	1. LMS. Girls Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.

V. SECONDARY GRADE TEACHER TRAINING –

1. Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam, Pillai, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kottar.
2. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Narthandam.
3. St. Joseph's Convent Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
4. Sree Devi Girls Higher Secondary School, Kollencode.
5. Little Flower Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
6. Duthie Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.

Table showing the total number of pupils studying, Vocational Course in the Higher Secondary Education in the District as on 1985- 86.

Name of the vocational course	*I Year*		*II Year*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
Agriculture	82	25	87	14
Engineering	574	30	420	5
Commerce & Business	496	566	354	436
Home science		77	..	36
Health	37	385	74	374
Others	..	..	..	..

THE NAMES OF THE VILLAGES /PLACES WHERE PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT AS IN 1989

(Educational District & Educational Ranges-wise)
NAGERCOIL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT

SUCINDRAM RANGE MIDDLE SCHOOLS :-

Government Middle Schools–

1. Devakulam
2. Eachenvilai
3. Kulasekarapuram
4. Kanagappuram
5. Kottaiyadi
6. Mahathanapuram
7. Nalloor
8. Orthaiyalvilai
9. Portaiyadi
10. Sucindram
11. Thamaraikulam(North)
12. Variyoor
13. Pottalkulam

Aided Middle Schools–

1. Kanniyakumari, Mary Immaculate
2. Theroor, Kasthurba
3. Rajanoor, St. Michel

Government Primary Schools–

1. Achankulam
2. Azhgappapuram
3. Athalavialai
4. Amanakkanvilai
5. Andarkulam
6. Ashramam
7. Sadaiyanlkulam
8. Chandhiyadi
9. Jamestowm
10. Kanniyakumari

11. Karkadu
12. Karumpattoor
13. Kalpurampothai
14. Kothigramam
15. Kundal
16. Leepuram
17. Maharajapuram
18. Muhilankudi
19. Mylaudy East
20. Mylaudy West
21. Punnriyadi
22. Pudhugramam
23. Samathanapuram
24. Sucindram
25. Thamaraikulam-South
26. Theroor
27. Vazhukkanparai

Private Primary Schools–

1. Azhagappapuram (St. Anthony)
2. Kanniyakumari (St. Joseph)
3. Kovalam (Dynasius)
4. Ramanathidranputhur (Little Flower)
5. Thirumoolanagar (St. George)
6. Arokkiyapuram (Arokkiya Annai)

NAGERCOIL RANGE :-
Government Middle Schools –

1. Aralkumarapuram
2. Aralperumalpuram
3. Boothapandi
4. Chenpagaramanpudhur
5. Therisanamkoppu
6. Easanthimangalam
7. Vadalivilai
8. Vadaseri-Weavers Colony
9. Kattuppudhur
10. Irulappapuram

Private Middle Schools–

1. Kottar St. Xavier.
2. Vedhakkaran Kudiyiruppu (St. Michel)
3. Aralshrine (Roman Catholic)
4. Marukalthalai (Lutheran)
5. Tadikarankonam (Christians Welfare)
6. Karimani (C.S.I.)
7. Kurusadi St. Anthony

Government Primary Schools–

1. Sarakkal Vilai
2. Chettikulam
3. Elankadi-North
4. Elankadi-South
5. Kalliyankadu
6. Kottar-Bazaar
7. Kottar-Vahiyadi
8. Krishnankoil
9. Nagercoil town
10. Maravan Kudiyiruppu
11. Parakkai Junction
12. Vadaseri
13. Vadaseri-Kalunkadi
14. Vadineeswaram
15. Vetturnimadam
16. Aralthanumalayanpudhur
17. Aral vadakkur
18. Azhakia Pandiapuram
19. Siramam
20. Gnalam
21. Navalkadu
22. Pharavathipudhar
23. Rethinapuram
24. Paraliaru (Dept. of Forests)
25. Udaiyadi (Dept. of Adi dravida welfare)
26. Seethappal
27. Thittuvilai
28. Veeranarayanamangalam

29. Visuvasapuram
30. Vazhaiyathuvayal

Aided Primary Schools–

1. Nagercoil (Duthi School)
2. Nagercoil (St. Joseph Convent)
3. Sayakkaranparappuvilai (St. Alosiyus)
4. Ramanpudhur (Little Flower)
5. Vadaseri (S.M.R.V.)
6. Ramanputhur (Roman Catholic)
7. Ganesapuram (Lutheran)
8. Maravankudiyiruppu (St. Mary)
9. Nagercoil (Lutheran)
10. Vadeseri (Lutheran)
11. Nagercoil (St. Francis)
12. Aralvoimozhi (Lutheran)
13. Shenbagaramanpudhur (Lutheran)
14. Nadoor (Lutheran)
15. Pudhucheri (Lutheran)
16. Kamarajapuram (Christ)
17. Nagercoil (Puthie – Nursery)
18. Ettamadai
19. Nagercoil (Home Church)

THUCKALAI EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT :-

RAJAKKAMANAGALAM RANGE,
Government Middle Schools –

1. Parakkai
2. Asaripallam
3. Thammathukonam
4. Pillaiyarvilai
5. Sothuvilai
6. Erumbukkadu
7. Melakirshnanpudhur

Private Middle Schools–

1. Manakkudi (Little Flower)
2. Mela Asaripallam (St. Judas)
3. Pozhikkarai (St. Mary)

4. Puthanthurai (Infant Jesus)
5. Ettamozthi (L.M.S.)
6. Senbagaramanputhanthurai (St. Anthony)

Government Primary Schools–

1. Alamkottai
2. Chithirathirumaharajapuram
3. Elanthiyadi
4. Ganabathipuram
5. Kannalkurichi
6. Paul Danielpuram
7. Poochivilagam
8. Kartadithattu
9. Kuzhakkattuvilai
10. Kidankankarai
11. Koilvilai
12. Kulathuvilai
13. Manavalapuram
14. Pambanvillai
15. Kaderti
16. Pulluvilai
17. Puthalam
18. Santhapuram
19. Soorankudi
20. Soorappallam
21. Vembanur
22. Vairakkudi
23. Zionpuram

Private Pirmary Schools–

1. Asaripallam (St. Michel)
2. Manakkudithurai (St. Androse)
3. Periyakadu (St. Anthony)
4. Keezha Asaripllam (St. Mary)
5. Pallam (St. Judas)
6. Pillaithoppu (St. Mary)
7. Rajakkamangalam (St. Joseph)
8. Zionpuram (L.M.S.)

COLACHEL RANGE :
Governent Middle Schools –

1. Colachel
2. Chettiyar Madam
3. Vellichandhai
4. Kattimacode
5. Kalpadi
6. Kattumangalam
7. Moongilvilai
8. Melkarai
9. Kallukottam
10. Kunnamcode
11. Alanvilai
12. Mondaikadu
13. Dalappallam
14. Thalakulam
15. Thottikodu

Private Middle Schools–

1. Kadiyappattinam (Sacred Heart)
2. Saral (Roman Catholic)
3. Karamkadu (Roman Catholic)
4. Mengalampadu (Roman Cathlolic)
5. Reethapuram (Presidency)
6. Kodimumai (St. Michel)
7. Mankuzhi (St. Francis Zavier)
8. Saralvilai (Lutheran)
9. Rethelpuram (N.M.)
10. Kurumabanai (St. Ignasius)
11. Pattarivilai (St. Xavier)
12. Vaniyakkudi (St. James)

Government Primary Schools–

1. Semponvilai
2. Sunkankadai
3. Colachel (L.M.S.)
4. Erumbili
5. Kadiappattinam
6. Manavilai

7. Neyyoor -1
8. Neyyoor-2
9. Colachel (Girls)
10. Neyyoor-3
11. Uthukuri
12. Nettankodu
13. Pillakkodu
14. Sasthankarai

Private Primary School–

1. Chinnavilai (St. Joseph)
2. Pudhur (Lucius)
3. Colachel (St. Mary)
4. Kadiappattinam (St. Peter)
5. Kohumkadu (Roman Catholic)
6. Madathattuvilai (St. Alosium)
7. Murasalkodu (St. Mary)
8. Muttom (St. John)
9. Kottilpadu (St. Alex)
10. Colachel (St. Annes)
11. Ullamkulam (Wesley)
12. Thirunayanarkurichi (Sarojah Memorial)
13. Elanthaivalai (Wesley)
14. Kathavilai (Subramania Memorial)
15. Neyyoor (Nursery)
16. Palayam (Lady of Health)

THIRUVATTAR RANGE :
Govt. Middle School–

1. Ittakkaveli
2. Kannur
3. Mathur
4. Muthalar
5. Ponmanai
6. Poovankodu
7. Pulippanam
8. Unniyoorkonam
9. Kodhaiyar upper dam
10. Villunnikonam

Private Middle Schools–

1. Moollavilai (St. Joseph)
2. Pilankalai (St. Joseph)
3. Puthankadai (St. Joseph)
4. Sukuladu (St. Joseph)
5. Kuttaikodu (St. Joseph)
6. Senkodai (Aided-M.V.)

Government Primary Schools–

1. Andoor
2. Athoor
3. Bharathappalli
4. Senkodai
5. Serukal
6. Raviputhurkadai
7. Kallankuzhi
8. Kesavapuram
9. Kulasekaram
10. Kolvel
11. Kurakkudi
12. Malavilai
13. Mundavilai
14. Muhilankarai
15. Thachoor
16. Thottavaram
17. Ertakodu
18. Thiruvattar
19. Thirparappu
20. Kodaiyar (Lower Dam)

Private Primary Schools–

1. Puthankadai (Roman Catholic)
2. Anaikkarai (Roman Catholic)
3. Kulesakaram (Roman Catholic St. Ursula)
4. Sakkul (St. Peter)
5. Themanoor (St. Thomas)
6. Eachamkodu (Sahayamadha)

7. Sitharur kodu (Adi dravida welfare)
8. Munklodai (Adi dravida welfare)

THUCKALAI RANGE :

Government Middle Schools–

1. Alankodu
2. Brahmapuram
3. Eraniel
4. Konchikuzhi
5. Kodiyur
6. Kattumanu
7. Kumarapuram
8. Manalikkarai
9. Portrikodu
10. Pathiramangalam
11. Puliyoorkurichi
12. Pilavilai
13. Thiruvithankodu
14. Vilavoor
15. Thuckalai Town
16. Perumchilambu
17. Vathiarkonam

Private Middle Schools–

1. Semparuthivilai (Roman Catholic)
2. Neyyoor (Hawker Memorial)
3. Kalkurichi (St. Joseph)
4. Vellikodu (Roman Cathollic)
5. Mulagamoodu (Roman Catholic)
6. Manalikkarai (Roman Catholic)
7. Palliyadi (Roman Catholic)
8. Muttakkadu (S.K.V.)
9. Vattam (St. Anthony)

Government Primary Schools–

1. Sadaiyamangalam
2. Chellamkonam
3. Christhukoil
4. Ethavilai

5. Gramam
6. Kadamalaikunru
7. Kalkulam (Boys)
8. Kalukalam (Girls)
9. Keralapuram
10. Kollanvilai
11. Narankonam
12. Kuzhikodu
13. Muttakkadu
14. Neykattanvilai
15. Palliyadi
16. Perumasilambu
17. Porvankaparambu
18. Putoor
19. Chinthanvilai
20. Tharavilai
21. Thiruvithamkodu
22. Thittumelkonam
23. Thuckalai (Muslim)
24. Thuckalai (Hospital) Grade

Private Primary Schools–

1. Appattuvilai (St. Anthony)
2. Chellankonam (M.S.C.)
3. Kandanvilai (St. Therasa)
4. Kappiarai (St. Catherine)
5. Manalikkarai (St. Joseph)
6. Thuckalai (St. Ellias)
7. Kailasavilai (St. xavier)

KUZHITHURAI EDUCATION DISTRICT :–

KUZHITHURAI RANGE :–
Government Middle Schools –

1. Andukodu
2. Aramanai
3. Arumanai (L.M.)
4. Chemmangalai
5. Kuzhithuraai (Girls)
6. Malaikodu (L.M.)

7. Malaikodu (S.V.)
8. Marthandam (M.V.)
9. Mecode
10. Puravoor
11. Thikurichi
12. Vanniyar
13. Pathukani

Private Middle Schools–

1. Thikkurichi (St. Gabrial)
2. Edaikodu (Govt. Aided)
3. Kadayal (Sacred Heart)
4. Kodumkulam (M.S.C.)
5. Kulapparai (M.S.C.)
6. Netta (St. Thomas Government aided)
7. Mukkoottukal
8. Melpalal
9. Pandalvilai

Government Primary Schools–

1. Andukodu (H.M.)
2. Seral
3. Devikodu (P.F.M.)
4. Edaikodu (H.P.S.S.)
5. Edaikodu
6. Elanchirai
7. Kaliyakkavilai
8. Kaliyakkavilai (Muslim)
9. Kuttaikodu
10. Kuzhithurai
11. Manjalmoodu
12. Marthandam (L.M.)
13. Maruthankodu (P.V.)
14. Maruthankodu (P.U.L.M.)
15. Marthandam
16. Melpalai
17. Muzhukkodu
18. Ortrappanavilai

19. Pakodu Colony
20. Pakodu-Koditharavilai
21. Pakodu (L.M.)
22. Palavilai
23. Palukal (T .V.)
24. Perai
25. Sivalokam
26. Sirtar
27. Orunaramvayal
28. Marappadi

Private Primary Schools–

1. Alamparai (St. Venezula)
2. Nellikkavilai (St. Marys)
3. Kaliyakkavilai (St. Alocius)
4. Melpalai
5. Parakunru (St. James)
6. Mankodu (St. Thomas)
7. Thiruthunapuram
8. Karode
9. Kaliyal (St. Marys)
10. Melpalai (St. Marys)
11. Arukani (Church Family)
12. Kalluppalam (P.S.)
13. Kuzhithurai (Devasvom)
14. Mottakkalai
15. Chemmanvilai

MUHCHIRAI RANGE :

Government Primary Schools–

1. Adaikakuzhi
2. Sathankodu
3. Kaliyakkavilai
4. Kirathoor
5. Kollamkodu
6. Kunnathoor
7. Madichal
8. Marayapuram

9. Parhivapuram
10. Painkulam
11. Palkulam
12. Pallikal
13. Poothurai
14. Pudhukkadai
15. Mankadu (P.V.)
16. Porankodu
17. Mecodu

Private Middle Schools–

1. Pudhukkadai
2. Siluvaipuram
3. Valavanur
4. Varuthattu (L.M.K.M.)
5. Kalparai
6. Nerodi

Government Primary Schools–

1. Amsi (Old)
2. Amsi (New)
3. Kothencodu
4. Kulappuram
5. Kuttamathykonam
6. Lakshmipudhukkadai
7. Mangadu (L.N.)
8. Marthandamthurai
9. Melengalam
10. Methukkumali
11. Nerodi
12. Udhachikottai
13. Suryakodu
14. Thoothoor
15. Thottavaram
16. Vevari
17. Venkanji
18. Venkanji (L.M.)

19. Vilathivilai
20. Raimanthurai

Private Primary Schools–

1. Venkanji
2. Kappukadu
3. Kirathur
4. Methukummal
5. Kamaraj Nagar (Sacred Heart)
6. Marthandanthurai (St. Alosius)
7. Kollamcode
8. Mankuzhi
9. Annikarai (St. Mathew)
10. Raviputhanthurai (St. Joseph)
11. Karunyapuram (St. Joseph)
12. Venkanji (C.S.I.)
13. Vavari (St. Francis)
14. Valvilai (St. Judas)
15. Thumbali (Sacred Heart)
16. Thoothoor (Pious II)
17. South Palavilai
18. Soozhal
19. Manali
20. Pudhkkadai (St. Marys)
21. Mauniarankonru (Immaculate Sacred Mary)

KARINGAL RANGE :

Govt. Middle Schools–

1. Devicodu
2. Kadamankuzhi
3. Kanchirapuram
4. Mankarai
5. Paravai
6. North Venkodu
7. Keezkulam
8. Mankanruvilai

Private Middle Schools–

1. Enayam
2. Elavuvilai

3. Nattalam
4. Thundathivilai (St. Anthony)
5. Velliyavilai
6. Ramanthurai
7. Kattukadai (St. Joseph)
8. Kurumpanai (St. Ignacius)
9. Mathiravilai (St. Judas)

Government Primary Schools–

1. Vlavuvilai
2. Irenipuram
3. Kakkavilai
4. Karungal
5 Keezhkulam
6. Kunjakodu
7. Killiyur (Native)
8. Killiyur (L.M.)
9. Kodumkulam
10. West Midalam
11. Mathicode
12. Marthandam
13. Mathikodu
14. Mulamkuzhi
15. Mullankinavilai
16. Nattalam
17. Palur
18. Parambu
19. Pootetri (M.V.)
20. Pooterti (L.M.)
21. Thattanvilai
22. Thippiramalai
23. Unnamalaikadai
24. Vadakkankarai
25. Vazhathottam
26. Valithalampallam
27. Virikodu

Private Primary Schools–

1. Alanji (St. Francis Xavier)
2. Kanavur
3. Midalam
4. Mullankinavilai
5. Puthanthurai
6. Arasankulam (Mathias Memorial)
7. Paravai Enayam
8. Palliyadi
9. Vazhuthalampallam
10. Venkodu
11. Mankanruvilai
12. Vizhuthanyambalam (St. Joseph)
13. Tholaiyavattai (St. Marys)
14. Valaivilai (Mankarai)

HIGH SCHOOLS,

Government High Schools, Nagercoil Educational District–

1. Aramanallur
2. Raviputhur
3. Erachakulam
4. Kulasekarapuram
5. Elarthadivilai
6. Mathavalayam
7. Portiyur
8. Ramapuram
9. Thittuvilai
10. Thiruppathisaram
11. Vadaseri
12. Nagercoil (SLB) (Girls)
13. Meenakshipuram
14. Ananthapuram
15. Ozhukiaseri
16. Vellamadam
17. Ezhakaram
18. Soorankudi (west)

Thuckalai Educational District–

1. Ammandivilai
2. Seruppalur
3. Thirunandhikarai
4. Villunikonam
5. Thangamputhoor
6. Aloor
7. Anandhanadarkudi
8. Cheramangalam
9. Elappalinai
10. Ethamozhi
11. Koduppaikuzhi
12. Kalkulam
13. Kandanvilai
14. Kannattuvilai
15. Kangalam
16. Pudhur
17. Putheri
18. Parvathipuram
19. Rajakkamangalam
20. Kandapartivilai
21. Eraniel
22. Kadiappattinam
23. Moolachi
24. Parakkai
25. Veyanoor
26. Peyankuzhi
27. Thiruvarampu
28. Thiruvattar
29. Peruvilai
30. Villukkuri
31. Vathiarkonam
32. Poovankodu

Kuzhithurai Educational District –

1. Puliyoorsalai
2. Thengaipattinam
3. Unnamalaikadai

4. Keezhkulam
5. Vellamkodu
6. Kanchiraikodu
7. Athankodu
8. Nalloor
9. Udhayamarthandam
10. Melpuram
11. Ananthamangalam

PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS :

Nagercoil Educational District–

1. Nagercoil (St. Francis)
2. Nagercoil (Concordia)
3. Nagercoil (Home Church-Girls)
4. Azhahappapuram (St. Joseph-Girls)
5. Thadikaran Konam (Christ Welfare)
6. Maravankudiyiruppu (Arokkiayasamy)

Thuckalai Educational District –

1. Kattathurai (Govt. Aided)
2. Thirparappu (Devasvom)
3. Muttam (All Saints)
4. Mulagumoodu
5. Santhapuram (L.M.S. Girls)
6. Mulagumoodu (Infant Jesus)
7. Kulasekaram (St. Ursulas)
8. Kunnamkal (Govt. Aided-Girls)
9. Pattarivilai (St. Xavier)
10. Karankadu (St. Aloysius)
11. Pallan (St. Judas)
12. Neyyoor (Hawker Memorial)
13. Bethelpuram (Marina Memorial)
14. Saral (St. Joseph)
15. Radhapuram (Providence-Girls)
16. Kadiappattinam (Sacred Heart)
17. Pilarkalai (St. Joseph)
18. Sekkal (St. Peters)
19. Manalikkarai (Carmal-Girls)

20. Velliyavilai (St. Aloysicus-Girls)

Kuzhithurai Educational District –

1. Kuzhithurai Devasom
2. Amsi (Thangapattinam)
3. Arukani (Church Family)
4. Mullankinavilai (St. Anthony)
5. Mottakkala
6. Venkanji (R.T.L.M.S.)
7. Kirathur (Margra Gorius)
8. Netta (St. Mary's)
9. Thundathulai (St. Anthony-Girls)
10. Kaliyal (St. Mary's)
11. Sooryakodu (St.Abraham)
12. Venkodu (St. Francis)
13. Kappukadu (St. Anthony)
14. Pacodu (Sacred Heart)
15. Elaruvlai (St. Aloyisus)
16. Pirakodu (Christ Raja)
17. Kodumkulam (M.S.C.)
18. Vizhanthaiyambalam (St. Joseph)
19. Alanji (St. Francis Xavier)
20. Irenipuram (V.V. Girls)
21. Enaiyanputhanthurai (St. Anthony-Girls)
22. Palliyadi (St. John Vienny's)
23. Palavilai South (Stephen)

ABSTRACT

Nagercoil Educational District –

Government Middle Schools		-	23
Private Middle Schools		-	10
	Total	-	33
Government Primary Schools		-	59
Private Primary Schools		-	25
	Total	-	84

Thuckalai Educational District –

Government Middle Schools	-	56
Private Middle Schools	-	33
Total	-	89
Government Primary Schools	-	84
Private Primary Schools	-	39
Total	-	123

Kuzhithurai Educational District –

Government Middle Schools	-	38
Private Middle Schools	-	24
Total	-	62
Government Primary Schools	-	75
Private Primary Schools	-	50
Total	-	125

Total Number of Middle Schools in Kanniyakumari revenue district

Government	-	117
Private	-	67
Total	-	184

Total Number of Primary Schools –

Government	-	308
Private	-	114
Total	-	422

High Schools –

	Govt.	Private
Nagercoil Educational district	18	6
Kuzhithurai Educational district	11	23
Thuckalay Educational district	32	20
Total	61	49

Total Government High Schools	61
Total Private High Schools	49
Total in the District	110

Teachers Training : Teachers are the architects of the society. It is true that the destiny of a nation is shaped in the classrooms by the teachers. Before they have to shape the destiny, they also have to be groomed enabling them to shape their pupils as full-fledged students i.e trained as teachers. The qualifications prescibed by the Tamil Nadu Educational Rules for the Primary and Middle School teachers are a pass in the higher secondary examinations (prior to 1987 it was a pass in S.S.L.C.) and a Certificate or Diploma in Education. The Headmaster of a Middle School may either be a graduate teacher or a Tamil pandit.

For handling high school classes the teachers should possess a degree in Arts or Science (B.A or B.Sc) and a degree in Teaching (B.T. or B.Ed.). The High school teachers are called graduate teachers. The Higher Secondary Teachers are the holders of post- graduate degrees They should posses post graduate degree in the respective subjects i.e M.A. M.Sc. or M.Com and a degree in teaching viz., B.T or B.Ed.

Teachers with required technical qualifications are appointed to teach the vocational subjects in the higher secondary schools. For example, to teach the students in office secretaryship training a technical teacher certificate holder may be appointed. For teaching engineering subjects, a diploma or degree holder in engineering is appointed. For teaching accountancy and auditing and bank assistant courses a graduate or a post-graduate in Commerce is appointed.

Teachers training institutions in Kanniyakumari district and conversion of ordinary training schools into basic training schools : When the Travancore kingdom opened schools and aided the private agencies to open schools and organised the education department, ordinary schools were opened and the details are dealt with in the relevant place.

In 1956, when the district was formed, the following teachers Training Schools were there –[130]

1. Two Government and one private ordinary training schools for men for imparting secondary grade training.

   The number of pupils under training during the year in all these 3 schools was 136 boys and girls.

2. One ordinary private teachers training school was running for women for imparting secondary grade teacher training only. In this institution 50 girls were trained during 1956-57.

3. One Government basic training school for men for imparting senior basic training was in existence. There were 56 boys and 15 girls undergoing training in it. This position continued up to 1958-59 and in 1959-60 there was a change in the number and types of institutions.[131]

As the concept of basic eduction spread widely, there was rapid conversion of many ordinary training schools into basic training schools. As a result, there was slight increase in the number of training institutions in the district in 1959-60, as detailed below :–

1. There existed one ordinary private training school for men, having provision for secondary grade training in which 77 boys and 112 girls were imparted training.

2. There were two Government and one aided basic taining schools for men having provision for senior basic training only and in which 190 boys and 82 girls underwent training.

3. There was one aided basic training school for women having provision for senior basic training only when 98 girls were imparted training.

Thus, the roll in all these training schools increased considerably, most probably realising the importance of basic training.

Position from 1964-65 to 1986-87 : During 1964-65, there was one ordinary Government training school for women and 29 girls were imparted training in that school. Besides, there were three Government basic training schools for men and 531 boys in all these schools underwent training. There was also one aided basic training school for women and 80 girls were undergoing training in that school. Totally, there

were three Government training schools and two private aided training schools in the district and thus the total number of these schools was five. This had been reduced to four[132] since 1973-74 and the four schools continued to run up to 1981-82 and from the next year onwards(1982-83) there have been five training schools.[133] All the five schools in the district were established prior to 1955.

Position in Kanniyakumari district in the year 1988 : As in 1988, there are three Government and two private teacher training institutes and their details are as follows:- [134]

1. **Government Higher Secondary School and Teacher Training Institute, Kuzhithurai :** This was established in the year 1943. The medium of instruction in the institute is Malayalam. The teachers trained in the institute cater the needs of the Malayalam medium schools located in the border area between Kanniyakumari district and Kerala State. Every year forty pupils are admitted for training in this institute. This is an institute meant for co-education.

2. **Government Teacher Training Institute, Kulasekaram :** This teachers' training institute was opened in June 1955. This is exclusively meant for boys. Forty pupils are admitted every year for training.

3. **Desika Vinayakam Devasthanam Higher Secondary School and Teacher Training Institute, Nagercoil :** This private aided teacher Training School was established in May 1953. This institute is meant for boys only. It is permitted to admit 40 boys every year.

4. **Kaviminy Desigavinayagam Pillai Government Higher Second ary School and Teacher Training Institute, Kottar, Nagercoil :** This institution could trace its history from the year 1850, when it was established as a Normal School. This institute is exclusively for girls. Every year, forty girls receive training in secondary grade teaching in this institute.

5. **Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute, Mulagumoodu :** This institute is run by a Christian Missionary. This institute is for girls only. It has been functioning from the year 1937. It admits forty girls every year for secondary grade teacher training.

Besides these five teacher training institues, there are also 24 co-education higher secondary schools and 6 girls' higher secondary schools, where secondary grade teachers' training is offered as a

vocational course exclusively for girls and more details are given under the caption 'Vocational Course' in this chapter.

Apart from these recognised institutions there are also some un-recognised teachers training institutes. Generally, the policy of the Government is to discourage the mushroom growth of such institutions. Because, if this kind of institutions are allowed to sprout, then the quality of teaching will become poor, as the pupils in these schools, are admitted not because of their merit, but because of the capitation and other fees, they cough up.

In Kanniyakumari district, private unrecognised teachers training institutes are located in the following places :–

1. Velayutha Nagar
2. Medhukummal
3. Chellankulam, and
4. Nagercoil

Nursery Schools : The education in the nursery schools comprises lower kindergarten to upper kindergarten. In Kanniyakumari district, there are only three recognised nursery schools. They are :–

1. Duthie Nursery School ;
2. L.M.S. Nursery School; and
3. Infant Jesus Kindergarten School.

But, besides these there are a number of nursery schools which are neither recognised nor aided by the Department of Education. However, as the educational policy of the Government allows private study, the schools are flourishing without the Govenment's recognition.

The medium of instruction in the nursery schools/convents or matriculation schools is normally English. They collect, monthly tuition fees from the pupils. Many of such schools are very particular in augmenting their resources purely from abnormal fees collected from students. Some schools are in the habit of demanding capitation fees. The Government have been issuing strict instructions that such unhealthy practices on the part of these institutions should cease.

The social welfare department extends grants to voluntary social service organisations to run creches and *balwadis* and they are also a kind of pre-school education, especially for the benefit of the poor children. The details of total number of *balwadis* and creches in the district are described in the chapter on "Other Social Services" of the Gazetteer.

Department of Government Examinations

Department of Government Examinations, is exclusively meant for conducting about forty examinations of various courses such as X standard (S.S.L.C) higher secondary and other technical and academic examinations.

The Department is headed by the Director of Government Examinations. He is assisted at the headquarters by two Joint directors, one for personnel and the other for higher secondary examinations. The latter is also the secretary to the Board of Higher Secondary Examinations. One secretary who is also the secretary, Board of Secondary Education, four additional Secretaries, who are entrusted with the conduct of various Government Technical and other examinations and three Personal Assistants who are assigned the work of various administrative and establishment matters are also working. In addition, the Director is assisted by a liaision officer who is co-ordinating the examination work with the Government data centre.[136]

To look after the regional administration, the State is divided into five regions viz. Tiruchirappalli, Madras, Thirunelveli, Madurai and Coimbatore. The regional offices except Tirunelveli are headed by the regional deputy directors of Government Examination, while th regional office, Tirunelveli is headed by regional secretary.

Administrative set up in Kanniyakumari district : The Kanniya Kumari district comes under the jurisdiction of Tirunelveli Region.[137] The regional level officers assist the Director of Government Examinations towards various items of preliminary work concerned with examinations like the constitution of centres, despatch of stationery materials to the examination centres under their respective jurisdiction and in processing all private applications relating to X std. (S.S.L.C.) received from the candidates whose nativity is under their jurisdiction.

National Service Schemes : The National Service Scheme has been introduced in the colleges and higher secondary schools to create national

and social awareness among the pupils.[138] Each volunteer enrolled under the scheme has to work for not less than 120 hours per year and the duration of the membership is two years. At the completion of two years a member should have worked for 240 hours in the various fields mentioned below :–

1. Adult education,
2. Organisation of mass immunisation, vaccination etc.
3. Conducting/, organising, medical check-up camps
4. Sanitation and hygiene,
5. Blood donations,
6. Service in orphanages and correctional institutions,
7. Helping the disabled and invalids,
8. Traffic control,
9. Ticket checking in railway stations,
10. Cleaning temples, tanks and environs,
11. Watering and tree planting,
12. Kitchen garden,
13. Road laying,
14. Desilting lakes, channels etc.
15. Adoption of villages and
16. Cultural and recreational activities.

Besides, the regular work for 240 hours during the membership, there are also special camps organised for a specific purpose of the scheme, under the orders of the apex bodies of the institutions. In colleges and higher secondary schools, the N.S.S activities are conducted by the programme officers. In Kanniyakumari district N.S.S. units are functioning in all the colleges and most of higher secondary schools. In N.S.S. Both boys and girls are eligible to be enrolled as members.

State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) :

The State Institute of Education, which started functioning on 1 July, 1965 as the academic wing of the Directorate of School Education was upgraded as SCERT on 15th May 1976, on lines with the NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), New Delhi.

Functions of the SCERT : The main functions of the SCERT are fourfold :–

1. In-service Training ; 2. Extension work ; 3. Research and 4. Publication.

The SCERT usually conducts in-service training courses, workshops and seminars for the benefit of teachers of primary, middle and high schools, in the headquarters (Madras) or sometime in the headquarters of every district.

Distance Education : The distance education or the correspondence and continuing education is a boon to those who could not attend to school or college in day time either for the reason that they are working or because they could not afford to stay in a far-away place, for collegiate education. The Madras University, Madurai Kamarajar University and the Annamalai University are running departments of correspondence and continuing education and they offer foundation courses, degree, post graduate and job oriented courses to the eligible candidates, through correspondence.

There are also open university schemes in these universities, which offer degree courses to the interested candidates without prescribing any minimum educational qualification for pursuing study in the open universities.

Besides the Universities, the Directorate of Govt. Examinations and the SCERT, are conducting E.S.L.C, S.S.L.C and Higher Secondary examinations for the private condidates. Under this scheme, any body who has attained prescribed age without any formal education can appear for E.S.L.C examinations. Those who have passed E.S.L.C. examinations can privately appear for S.S.L.C and then higher secondary examinations.

There are also beneficiaries of the distance education in the district, and it is doubtless that there are innumerable teachers, employees, businessmen and general public in the district who have got certificates, degrees etc. through this system of education.

National Cadet Corps : By the enactment of the N.C.C Act. 1948 (ACT No. XXXI) the National Cadet Corps came into existence. The Wings of N.C.C were started in the educational institutions consequent on the introduction of the above Act.The objective of introducing the N.C.C., in the educational institutions is to instill the sense of national spirit and the

importance of the national defence and its methods which centres around national integration.

The following are the major developments in the N.C.C movement since its organisation in 1948 :–

1948 Formation of N.C.C and the appointment of the Director of N.C.C in the Colonel cadre.

1949 Introduction of Girls Division in N.C.C.

1950 Addition of AIR WNG to N.C.C.

1952 Addition of Naval Wing to N.C.C. Social Service was made as a part of N.C.C.

1953 (i) Due to various-demands for N.C.C units in schools, ACC (Auxillary Cadet Corps) was introduced.

(ii) First Prime Minister Rally was held at Delhi. Eversince the Prime Minister's Rally has been an annual function on 26th January every year.

1954 The rank of the Director was upgraded from Colonel to Brigadier.

1957 Separate Officer's Training school was established for training N.C.C Officers. Hitherto they were given training in the Regimental Army Centres.

1963 N.C.C Training was made compulsory in the colleges following the Chinese aggression in this year. The Director of N.C.C. was redesignated as Director-General.

1965 Attachment with the regular Army Units for N.C.C. was introduced.

1968 Compulsory N.C.C. Training in colleges was removed and it was made voluntary.

1972 Para training was introduced for N.C.C. Boy Cadets.

1974 Para training was extended to Girl Cadets.

1974 First Girls Squadron was raised.

1975 Naval Wing of N.C.C. was extended to Girl Cadets.

1978 Attachment with Armed Forces Hospital approved and adopted for Girl Cadets.

1980 The First Youth Exchange Programme with Canada was organised. 17 cadets visited Canada.

1985 The first N.C.C. V year plan (1985-90) was launched. Group Insurance for N.C.C. Cadets were introduced. For all cadets on death/permanent disability during N.C.C. Training.

1986 N.C.C. training was included in one of the sub-points of the Prime Minister's 20 Point Programme.

Besides, the regular parades and trainings, the following activities of N.C.C. are also important :–

1. The Annual Training Camps
2. Trekking
3. Social service activity, such as tree planting, blood donation, anti-leprosy drive, anti-dowry drive etc.
4. Para sailing and Para Training
5. Gliding
6. Naval expedition
7. Mountaineering
8. Rock climbing
9. Archery / Shooting
10. Adventure Leadership camp
11. Basic Leadership camp
12. Centrally organised camp
13. Directorate organised camp

The training imparted to N.C.C. Cadets is not like the one that exists in other sister organisations of youth such as the National Service Schemes, Sports, Youths Service, Scouts etc. The N.C.C. training is not only military, adventure type but also service oriented. Training of N.C.C Cadets is the Joint responsibility of the Central as well as State Governments. N.C.C. is a para-military organisation in which the educational authorities and the officers of the organisation play vital role.

N.C.C. in the State of Tamil Nadu is under Deputy director general of N.C.C. whose headquarters is at Madras. He is of the rank of Brigadier or equivalent in other services. He is assisted by various officers.

Functioning of N.C.C. Organisation in Kanniyakumari district : The N.C.C. Units are functioning in 6 colleges, 19 higher secondary schools and in 2 high schools in the district. They come under the immediate control of the commanding officer II (Tamil Nadu) Battalion, N.C.C. Nagercoil. This Battalion forms part of N.C.C. Group Head Quarters, Madurai. In each educational institution, where there is N.C.C. company/troop (sub-unit) there is one N.C.C. officer on part-time basis.

The II (Tamil Nadu) Battalion of N.C.C. at Nagercoil has both Senior and Junior Divisions. The former consists of 647 cadets and the latter 2200. This Battalion is commanded by a regular army officer of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel who is assisted by military and civil officers. Besides, the normal training every year, this Battalion is conducting various combined camps like National Integration Camp, Annual Training Camp, etc.

Man Power : The following is the list of colleges, higher secondary schools and high schools and the total number of cadets in each :–

Sl. No.	*Name of the Institution*	*Total number of cadets*
	Colleges :	
1.	S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil	120
2.	Scott Christian College, Nagercoil	92
3.	Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam	120
4.	Lakshmipuram College of Arts and Science, Neyyoor	75
5.	Vivekananda College, Agasthiswaram	80

6. St.Jude's College, Thoothoor	160
Total	647

Higher Secondary Schools :

Sl. No. Name of the Institution	Total number of cadets
1. St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Asaripallam	100
2. St. Antony's Higher Secondary School, Azhagappapuram	100
3. SLB Govt. Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil	100
4. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam	100
5. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thuckalay	100
6. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Eraniel	100
7. DVD Higher Secondary School, Kottar	100
8. Ringletaube Higher Secondary School, Mylaudy	100
9. Scott Christian Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil	200
10. SMSM Higher Secondary School, Sucindram	100
11. St. Marry Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai	100
12. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thiruvithancode	100
13. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Aralvoimozhi	100
14. St. Francis Higher Secondary School, Vavarai	100
15. TCK Higher Secondary School, Padanthalumoodu	100
16. Devaswom Higher Secondary School, Mondaikadu	100
17. Govt. Higher Secondary School and TTS, Nagercoil	100
18. LMS Higher Secondary School, Kadamalaikuntu	100
Total	2000

High Schools :

1. Govt. High Secondary School, Vadasery	100
2. St. Eprem's MSC High School, Sooriacode	100
Total	200

N.C.C. camps have been held in the various places of the district and the details of the camps held are as follows :–

Sl. No.	*Name and location*	*Duration of camp*
1.	Annual Training Camp Senior Division Boys, Marthandam.	14 Jan. - 27 Jun. 78
2.	ATC JD Boys, (AW) Marthandam	25 Sep. - 04 Oct. 78
3.	ATC JD Boys, Nagercoil	24 Dec. - 02 Jan. 80
4.	ATC SD Boys, Marthandam	16 Jul. -27 Jul. 81
5.	CATC SD Boys, Marthandam	24 Dec. - 04 Jun. 83
6.	CATC JD Boys, Suchindram	02 Oct. - 11 Oct. 83
7.	CATC JD Boys, Marthandam	30 Sep. - 09 Oct. 84
8.	CATC with Agricultural Bias SD Boys, NCC Marthandam	24 Dec. - 04 Jan. 83
9.	Basic Leadership course SD Boys, Nagercoil, Thuckalay	24 May. - 06 Jun. 84
10.	CATC NCC JD Boys at Marthandam	26 Sep. - 05 Oct. 85
11.	ALC SW Girls at Sri Ayyappa College for Women, Nagercoil	08 Jun. - 28 Jun. 84
12.	ATC SD Boys, Nagercoil	22 May. - 31 May. 86
Sl. No.	*Name and location*	*Duration of camp*
13.	CATC SD Boys, Marthandam	24 Dec. - 04 Jan. 87
14.	CATC JD Boys, Marthandam	-do-
15.	Special CATC SD Boys, at MMC College, Marthandam	09 Jun. - 20 Jun. 86
16.	National Integration Camp JD Boys, Marthandam	27 Sep. - 06 Oct. 87
17.	National Integration Camp JD Boys, Nagercoil	14 May - 23 May 88

Boys Scouts and Girls Guides : The Boys Scouts and Girls Guides are also the service organisations in educational institutions to create an awareness among the pupils on the social work and national service. In

most of the middle schools and high schools, Scouts and Guides are functioning.

Mass Media and Education : The popular mass media such as radio and television are effectively used by the Department of Education to educate the pupils, to develop their general knowledge as well as in their studies on various subjects according to school syllabus.

Programmes and refresher courses are broadcast for the teachers also, through air. All the schools in Kanniyakumari district are provided with radio sets, so as to enable the pupils to watch the educational programmes during school hours. As in 1981-82, 150 Higher Secondary schools, 130 middle schools, 367 primary schools of the district were supplied with radio sets. All the radio stations including the one at Nagercoil, are having their own programmes on eduction and pupils are benefited by all the programmes. Some of the news papers also contribute towards the cause of education. They prepare pupils for the examinations of S.S.L.C. and H.S.C. by daily publishing model questions and answers at regular intervals.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is an integral part of the school curriculam. Since sound body is the sound mind, the physical education helps maintain sound health. Physical education from IV to IX standards has been made compulsory and while promoting a pupil from lower to upper class, his or her performance in physical education also counts.

The department of physical education has its long history to its credit, early from 1916, -when an Adviser to Government on physical education was appointed. This post continued up to 1949, when the post was redesignated as Chief Inspector of physical education. There was also a post of woman specialist in physical education exclusively to administer, control and inspect the physical education of girls.

Chief Inspector of Physical Education : The State level officer of the physical education for boys and co-education schools is the Chief-Inspector of physical education. He is assisted by the Regional Inspectors of physical education at regional levels.

Physical Education In Kanniyakumari district : In the field of physical education the revenue district of Kanniyakumari forms one of the regions and is headed by a Regional Inspector of physical education. His primary duty is to inspect the schools and co-ordinate the physical education in the district. In each high school and in some middle schools, physical education teachers are working. They are diploma or certificate holders in physical education. In higher secondary schools, the qualification of a physical education teacher is a degree in Arts or Science and a degree in physical education.

Chief Inspectress of Physical Education : At State level, the Chief Inspectress of physical education for girls schools is in charge of the instruction of physical education in girls schools. She is assisted by the Regional Inspectresses. There are four such Regional Inspectresses of physical education having headquarters at Madurai, Coimbatore, Madras and Tiruchirappalli.

Physical Education of Girls in Kanniyakumari district : The girls schools in Kanniyakumari district come under the jurisdiction of the Regional Inspectress of physical education, at Madurai. The Madurai region was constituted with effect from 31 January 1978.[139] Besides Kanniyakumari district the other districts that come under the jurisdiction of Madurai Division are Madurai, Anna, V.O.Chidambaranar, Tirunelveli Kattabomman, Ramanathapuram, Kamarajar and Pasumpon Muthuramalingam.

The physical education teachers in the schools teach day to day drills and other exercises to the pupils compulsorily. Besides this, the interested and suitable pupils to play various games and atheletic events are identified and coached, enabling them to participate in tournaments conducted in various levels. Every year, in every school, Annual Sports Meet is conducted and the winners are awarded school level prizes and certificates in various games skills and athletics.

The Department of physical education conducts Republic Day tournaments at State level. The venue for the tournament is selected in rotation every year in such a way that it is conducted in all the district headquarters in the State.

Before participating in the tournament, proper selection is made by conducting the games and sports at various stages and thereby the

number of sportsmen to participate in the Republic Day Tournament is short listed.

The first stage is called zonal tournament in which 10 schools take part. Each educational district is divided into four zones for boys. The next stage is the educational district level tournament and the three educational districts i.e. Nagercoil, Kuzhithurai and Thuckalai of the district participate in it. Next comes the divisional level tournament in which each revenue district form one region. The inter-divisional tournament is conducted after the divisional tournament and Kanniyakumari district participates in the inter-divisional tournament and it plays against Tirunelveli Kattabomman district.

Then comes the state level Republic Day tournament which is usually held on the eve of Republic Day. In these tournaments, the boys up to X standards (S.S.L.C.) are eligible to participate in all events, while the higher secondary pupils are eligible only for athletic events. Hence, a separate tournment was conducted in the year 1982-83. Since then every year a state level tournment exclusively for higher secondary students is held every year. This sports meet is named as Bharathiar Day Tournament and it is held on the eve of Bharathiyar's birth day.

Prize Money Scheme : In order to encourage sports and games in schools, the Government of India launched a scheme from 1986-87 by which, for each revenue district, Rs.50,000 per year for boys and Rs.40,000 for girls have been allotted to the schools in which the winners study. The prize money is meant for the improvement of the playground of the schools and to buy sports materials.

For awarding this prize money, school level, educational district level and revenue district level sports are conducted and the successful schools are awarded the prize money.

Bharatheeyam : *Bharatheeyam* is an Indo-Russian gymnastic, being introduced in schools. In August 1988, 12 physical education teachers were trained in Gwalior for a fortnight. The twelve teachers in turn were to give training to other physical education teachers in the State by conducting training camps. After all the physical education teachers are trained, the *Bharatheeyan* will be introduced in schools. The broad objectives of the physical education are :–[140]

(1) To make the youth physically strong and resistant developing in them, physical fitness, endurance, courage and character.

(2) To develop among students a sense of appreciation for the democratic values of life and love for the fellow being.

For all classes from VI to XI the syllabus of physical education consists of eight major heads of activities.

(1) Marching ;

(2) Body building exercises ;

(3) Indigenous exercises ;

(4) Yoga exercise-asanam ;

(5) Stunts, templing and pyarmids ;

(6) Fundamental skills of games and athletics ;

(7) Group games and

(8) Light apparatus and rhythmics.

Activities like swimming, cycling, canoeing, *silambam*, skating, horse-riding, mountaineering and individual defensive arts, may also be taught as optional activities wherever facilities are available for such activities of physical education.

Besides this physical education in schools, there is also a separate department called Department of Sports headed by a Director in the State level and District Sports Officer in the district level. This department organises and conducts sports and games in the district, state and national level.

The Director of Sports, with the financial assistance from the Government of Tamil Nadu, conducts sports in each district in rotation at periodical intervals. This is called inter-state tournaments in which sportsmen from each state participate. Such a tournament was conducted in Tiruchirappalli in 1985-86. It is worthmentioning that Tamil Nadu stood first in most of the events.

Growth of literacy in Kanniyakumari district : Owing to the educational activities of the missionaries and the existence of innumerable pial schools even in the remote villages, the erstwhile Travancore native State stood first in the rate of literacy among other States and British

Indian Provinces. The compiler of the 1931 Census of India (Travancore) report writes,

"We have seen that Burma, Cochin and Travancore are far ahead of other provinces and States in India in literacy. Burma owes this position to her monastic schools through which a large portion of her Buddhist population passes. In Cochin and Travancore the people from early times have shown special interest in education".[141]

This position is kept up, by the State and of all the States of India, Kerala is the highest in literacy rate, having 69.17 per cent of literate population.[142]

Kanniyakumari district maintains its old legacy, the highest rate of literacy from the beginning. This may be proved by the following extracts from the Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu (1986).

As per the latest Census (1981) the total literacy rate of the district is 63.8 per cent of which the percentage for males and females are 68.55 percent and 59.08 per cent, respectively. [143] The following tables will disclose the condition of literacy in the district in 1901, 1961, 1971, and 1981.

1986

Description State/District (1)		Total (2)	Population Males (3)	Females (4)	Literate Population Total (5)	Males (6)	Females (7)
TAMIL NADU	T	48408077	24487624	2392453	22637649	14267331	8370328
STATE	R	32456202	16334231	1612971	12516223	8356454	4159769
	U	15951875	8153393	779482	10121436	5910877	4210559
MADRAS	T	3276622	1694107	158215	2241149	1280772	960377
DISTRICT	R	–	–	–	–	–	–
	U	3276622	1694107	158215	2241149	1280772	960377
KANNIYAKUMARI	T	1423399	716958	70641	908894	491499	417395
DISTRICT	R	1177867	593006	58391	727979	395700	332279
	U	245532	123052	12240	180915	95799	85116

Source: Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu (1986)

T.Total Population
R.Rural Population
U. Urban Population

1901

VILAVANKODU TALUK

RELIGION	AGE GROUP	POPULATION								
		TOTAL			LITERATE			ILLITERATE		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
ALL RELIGIONS	0-10	22,437	11,110	11,307	225	153	72	22,212	10,977	11,235
	10-15	9,211	4,906	4,305	537	414	123	8,674	4,492	4,182
	15-20	7,582	3,707	3,875	657	511	146	6,925	3,196	3,729
	20 and over	10,354	20,950	19,404	5,000	4,512	488	35,354	16,438	18,916
	Total	79,581	40,693	38,891	6,419	5,590	829	73,165	35,103	38,062

Literate in									Literate in		
Malayalam			Tamil			Other Languages			English		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
133	80	53	114	92	22	..	..	..	1	1	..
377	281	96	269	222	47	1	1	..	19	15	4
433	322	111	397	340	57	3	3	..	30	24	6
2,977	2,650	327	3,644	3429	215	58	54	4	147	140	7
3,920	3,333	587	4,424	4083	341	62	58	4	197	180	17

Source: Census of India - 1901 - Vol. XXIV - B-Travancore (Trivandrum 1903)

1901

KALKULAM TALUK

RELIGION	AGE GROUP	POPULATION								
		TOTAL			LITERATE			ILLITERATE		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
ALL RELIGIONS	0-10	18789	8906	9883	135	86	49	18654	8820	9834
	10-15	8,190	4222	3986	410	311	99	7780	3911	3869
	15-20	6626	3267	3359	687	539	148	5939	2728	3211
	20 and over	36642	18595	18047	5462	5007	455	31180	13588	17592
	Total	70247	34990	35257	6694	5943	751	63553	29047	34506

Literate in									Literate in		
Malayalam			Tamil			Other Languages			English		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
89	56	33	70	48	22	1	1	..	8	4	4
300	227	73	244	199	45	..	..	..	21	20	1
428	321	107	516	434	82	7	7	..	21	12	9
2943	2654	289	2795	2622	173	66	65	1	330	312	18
3760	3258	502	3625	3303	322	74	73	1	380	348	32

Source: Census of India - 1901 - Vol. XXIV - B-Travancore (Trivandrum 1903)

1901

ERANIEL TALUK

RELIGION (1)	AGE GROUP (2)	POPULATION: TOTAL Persons (3)	Males (4)	Females (5)	LITERATE Persons (6)	Males (7)	Females (8)	ILLITERATE Persons (9)	Males (10)	Females (11)
ALL RELIGIONS	0-10	29600	14102	15498	288	213	75	29312	13889	15423
	10-15	13749	7161	6588	1011	782	229	12738	6379	6359
	15-20	9632	4841	4791	1243	1016	227	8389	3825	4564
	20 and over	57180	28994	28186	9468	8733	735	47712	20261	27451
	Total	110161	55098	55063	12010	10744	1266	98151	44354	53797

Literate in: Malayalam Persons (12)	Malayalam Males (13)	Malayalam Females (14)	Tamil Persons (15)	Tamil Males (16)	Tamil Females (17)	Other Languages Persons (18)	Other Languages Males (19)	Other Languages Females (20)	Literate in: English Persons (21)	English Males (22)	English Females (23)
127	88	39	229	178	51	..	..	..	7	5	2
436	338	98	877	702	175	15	14	1	52	35	17
482	387	95	1127	958	169	12	12	..	80	67	19
2548	2286	282	8981	8412	569	88	82	6	346	302	38
3593	3099	494	11214	10250	964	115	108	7	485	409	76

Source: Census of India - 1901 - Vol. XXIV - B-Travancore (Trivandrum 1903)

1901

AGASTHISVARAM TALUK

RELIGION (1)	AGE GROUP (2)	POPULATION								
		TOTAL			LITERATE			ILLITERATE		
		Persons (3)	Males (4)	Females (5)	Persons (6)	Males (7)	Females (8)	Persons (9)	Males (10)	Females (11)
ALL RELIGIONS	0-10	25439	12036	13403	205	143	62	25334	11893	13341
	10-15	10702	5552	5150	771	591	180	9931	4961	4970
	15-20	8345	4081	4264	1242	1000	242	7103	3081	4022
	20 and over	49027	23608	25419	7745	7026	719	41282	16582	24700
	Total	93513	45277	48236	9963	8760	1203	83550	36517	47033

Literate in									Literate in		
Malayalam			Tamil			Other Languages			English		
Persons (12)	Males (13)	Females (14)	Persons (15)	Males (16)	Females (17)	Persons (18)	Males (19)	Females (20)	Persons (21)	Males (22)	Females (23)
28	25	3	192	137	55	6	1	5	..	7	6
184	158	26	739	567	172	8	4	4	..	40	6
371	338	33	1207	971	236	16	14	2	1	133	15
1889	1811	78	7548	6872	676	150	135	15	593	546	47
2472	2332	140	9686	8547	1139	108	154	26	594	726	74

Source : Census of India - 1901 - Vol. XXIV - B-Travancore (Trivandrum 1903)

1901

THOVALAI TALUK

RELIGION	AGE GROUP	POPULATION								
		TOTAL			LITERATE			ILLITERATE		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
ALL RELIGIONS	0-10	8458	4098	4360	24	22	2	8434	4076	4358
	10-15	3581	1875	1706	218	185	33	3363	1690	1673
	15-20	2750	1268	1482	365	309	56	2385	959	1426
	20 and over	17621	8438	9183	3127	2998	129	14494	5440	9054
	Total	32410	15679	16731	3734	3514	220	28676	12165	16511

Literate in									Literate in		
Malayalam			Tamil			Other Languages			English		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
6	5	1	22	20	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
64	556	8	214	183	31	1	1	..	4	4	..
116	97	19	358	303	55	3	2	1	10	9	1
611	596	15	3088	2964	124	64	63	1	108	103	5
797	754	43	3682	3470	212	68	66	2	122	116	6

Source: Census of India - 1901 - Vol. XXIV - B, Travancore (Trivandrum 1903)

1961-TABLE 'A' - AGE, SEX AND EDUCATION IN ALL AREAS

Age Group (1)	Total Population Persons (2)	Total Population Males (3)	Total Population Females (4)	Illiterattes Males (5)	Illiterattes Females (6)
All Ages	996,915	503,735	493,180	220,441	292.297
0- 4	140,099	71,255	68.844	71,255	68,844
5- 9	138,921	70,642	68,279	27,685	29,739
10-14	131,627	66,297	65,330	13,960	18,748
15-19	95,526	46,185	49,341	12,624	17,560
20-24	81,101	41,173	39,928	12,054	18,165
25-29	74,215	36,516	37,699	12,036	21,196
30-34	61,534	30,549	30,985	10,421	18,581
35-44	109,072	56,214	52,858	21,654	35,798
45-59	109,498	56,733	52,765	24,732	40,435
60 +	55,271	28,145	27,126	14,000	23,212
A.N.S.	51	26	25	20	19

Age Group	Literates Males (7)	Literates Females (8)	Educational Levels: Basic, Primary or Junior Males (9)	Basic, Primary or Junior Females (10)	Matriculation and above Males (11)	Matriculation and above Females (12)
All Ages	187,487	140,223	72,100	51,590	23,707	9,070
0- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- 9	41.878	37,412	1,079	1,128	-	-
10-14	23,893	22,975	28,389	23,552	55	55

	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
15-19	13,308	16,175	14,661	11,715	5,592	3,891
20-24	15,474	13,784	6,550	4,960	7,095	3,019
25-29	15,926	12,439	4,405	3,047	4,149	1,017
30-34	14,528	9,855	3,626	2,141	1,974	408
35-44	26,147	13,798	6,187	2,892	2,226	370
45-59	24,736	10,377	5,405	1,741	1,860	212
60 +	11,593	3,402	1,797	414	755	98
A.N.S.	4	6	1	-	1	-

A.N.S. - Age Not Stated

Source : For the Tables A,B and C(1961) Census of India, (1961) District Census Hand book - Kanniyakumari District Page. 246 to 249.

1961-TABLE-B- AGE, SEX, AND EDUCAITON IN URBAN AREAS ONLY

Age-Group	*Total Populations*			*Illiterates*		*Literates (with out Educational level)*	
	Persons	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*
All Ages	150,079	75,515	74,564	26,044	37,623	26,970	22,658
0- 4	20,304	10,349	9,955	10,349	9,955	-	-
5- 9	19,509	9,736	9,773	4,645	4,761	4,865	4,758
10-14	19,155	9,692	9,463	11,225	1,786	3,205	3,339
15-19	14,321	6,977	7,344	1,070	1,706	1,685	2,208
20-24	12,773	6,379	6,394	1,076	1,965	2,202	2,328

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
25-29	11,846	5,802	6,044	1,030	2,356	2,419	2,416
30-34	9,806	4,876	4,930	876	2,155	2,354	1,926
35-44	16,733	8,881	7,852	1,957	4,192	4,312	2,611
45-49	16,898	8,558	8,340	2,315	5,368	4,023	2,223
60 +	8,729	4,263	4,466	1,499	3,376	1,905	849
A.N.S.	5	2	3	2	3	-	-

Age Group	Educational Levels							
	Primary or Junior Basic		Matriculation or Higher Secondary		Technical Diploma not equal to degree		Non-Technical Diploma not equal to degree	
	Males (9)	Females (10)	Males (11)	Females (12)	Males (13)	Females (14)	Females (15)	Males (16)
All Ages	15,031	11,320	5,862	2,634	82	59	90	30
0- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- 9	226	254	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	5,243	4,328	19	10	-	-	-	-
15-19	2,836	2,342	1,327	1,042	10	17	-	2
20-24	1,296	1,225	1,507	774	21	12	3	7
25-29	1,090	903	933	288	10	10	15	7
30-34	915	660	468	157	6	1	14	7
35-44	1,643	836	714	182	13	1	24	4
45-59	1,327	610	602	116	12	7	30	2

	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
60 +	455	162	292	65	10	11	4	1
A.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A.N.S. -' Age not stated.

1961 - Tabie - B - AGE, SEX AND EDUCATION IN URBAN AREAS ONLY (Cont.)

Age-Group	University Degree or Post Graduate Degree other than Technical Degree		Technical Degree or Diploma equal to Degree or Post Graduate Degree.					
			Engineering		Medicine		Agriculture	
	Males (17)	Females (18)	Males (19)	Females (20)	Males (21)	Females (22)	Males (23)	Females (24)
All-Ages	1,062	155	88	..	44	4	5	2
0- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	42	27	7	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	217	58	34	-	-	1	2	-
25-29	206	34	19	-	11	1	2	2
30-34	164	18	14	-	12	-	-	-
45-44	165	12	5	-	10	1	1	-
45-59	191	6	6	-	8	1	-	-
60 +	77	-	3	-	3	-	-	-
A.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Age Group	Veterinary and dairying		Technology		Teaching		Others	
	Males (25)	*Females* (26)	*Males* (27)	*Females* (28)	*Males* (29)	*Females* (30)	*Males* (31)	*Females* (32)
All Ages	4	-	-	-	219	79	14	-
0- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	1	-	-	-	14	24	6	-
25-29	2	-	-	-	63	27	2	-
30-34	1	-	-	-	50	6	2	-
35-44	-	-	-	-	37	13	-	-
45-59	-	-	-	-	40	7	4	-
60 +	-	-	-	-	15	2	-	-
A.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A.N.S. = Age not stated.

1961 - TABLE C - AGE, SEX AND EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS ONLY

Age Group	Total Population			Illiterate	
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All-Ages	846,836	428,220	418,616	194,39	254,674
0- 4	119,718	60,906	58,889	60,906	58,889
5- 9	119,412	60,906	58,506	23,040	24,978
10-14	112,472	56,605	55,867	12,735	16,92
15-19	84,205	39,208	41,997	11,554	15,854
20-24	68,328	34,794	33,534	10,978	16,200
25-29	62,369	30,714	31,655	11,006	18,840
30-34	51,728	25,673	26,055	9,545	16,426
35-44	92,339	47,333	45,006	19,697	31,606
45-59	92,600	48,175	44,425	22,417	35,067
60 +	46,542	23,882	22,660	12,501	19,836
A.N.S.	46	24	22	18	16

Age Group	Literate (without Educational level)		Educational Levels			
			Primary or Junior Basic		Matriculation & above	
	Males (7)	Females (8)	Males (9)	Females (10)	Males (11)	Females (12)
All-Ages	160,517	117,565	57,069	40,270	16,237	6,107
0- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- 9	37,013	32,654	853	874	-	-
10-14	20,688	19,636	23,146	19,224	36	45
15-19	11,623	13,967	11,825	9,373	4,206	2,803
20-24	13,272	11,456	5,254	3,735	5,290	2,143
25-29	13,507	10,023	3,315	2,144	2,886	648
30-34	12,174	7,929	2,711	1,481	1,243	219
35-44	21,835	11,187	4,544	2,056	1,257	157
45-59	20,713	8,154	4,078	1,131	967	73
60 +	9,688	2,553	1,342	252	351	19
A.N.S.	4	6	1	-	1	-

A.N.S. Age not stated.

1971

DESCRIPTION (1)		TOTAL POPULATION Total (2)	Males (3)	Females (4)	LITERATE POPULATION Total (5)	Males (6)	Females (7)
KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT	T	122549	619884	602665	711676	397453	314223
	R	1018144	517164	500980	578483	323836	252647
	U	204405	102720	101685	135193	73617	61576
VILAVANCODE TALUK	T	389828	198609	191219	211812	120540	911272
	R	373630	190419	183211	201254	114771	86493
	U	16198	8190	8008	10548	5769	4779
KALKULAM TALUK	T	414497	211514	202983	230058	127976	102082
	R	37879	193470	185319	209596	116629	92967
	U	35708	18044	17664	20462	11347	9115

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
THOVALAI TALUK	T	78252	39260	38992	46885*	26569	20316
	R	78252	39260	38992	46885	26569	20316
	U	-	-	-	-	-	-
AGASTISWARAM TALUK	T	339972	170501	169471	222928	122368	100553
	R	187473	94015	93458	1118738	65867	52871
	U	152449	76486	76013	104083	56501	47682

Source : Census 1971 - Series 19 Tamil Nadu Part-X (A&B) Village and Town Directory and Primary Census Abstract, - District Census Hand Book - Kanniyakumari District. p.2 & 3.

T = Total
R = Rural
U = Urban

1981

DISTRICT AND TALUKS (1)		TOTAL POPULATION All Persons (2)	Males (3)	Females (4)	PERCENTAGE OF LITERATE POPULATION All Persons (5)	Males (6)	Females (7)
KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT	T	1423399	716958	706441	63.05	68.55	59.08
	R	1177867	593906	583961	61.80	66.63	56.00
	U	245532	123052	122480	73.68	77.85	69.49
VILAVANCODE TALUK	T	458590	231592	226998	59.49	64.64	54.24
	R	440163	222400	217763	58.95	64.13	53.66
	U	18427	9192	9235	72.30	76.90	67.72
KALKULAM TALUK	T	476633	241642	234991	61.48	65.54	57.31
	R	435263	220701	214562	61.15	65.25	56.93
	U	41370	20941	20429	65.02	68.57	61.38
THOVALAI TALUK	T	88176	44258	43918	65.10	71.11	59.05
	R	88176	44258	43918	65.10	71.11	59.05
	U	-	-	-	-	-	-
AGASTISWARAM TALUK	T	400000	199466	200534	71.41	76.18	66.65
	R	214265	106547	107718	67.64	72.82	62.52
	U	185735	92919	92816	75.75	80.04	71.46

Source : Census of India, 1981 - District Hand Books - Kanniyakumari District - p.20

T = Total
R = Rural
U = Urban

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The University of Madras was incorporated by an Act of the Legislative Council of India dated 5 September 1857. This institution like its sister institutions at Calcutta and Bombay, was framed on the pattern of the University of London.

Though the three Universities were established in 1857 by the Acts of Legislature, the University of Madras started formal functioning still earlier i.e on 14 April 1841, with the strenous efforts of Lord Elphinstone, the then Governor of Madras Presidency.

This was the only University in the erstwhile Madras Presidency until the foundation of the Annamalai University in the year 1929 with one arts college and two oriental colleges at Chidambaram.

Madurai University was the third University in the State established in the year 1966. This University was later named as Madurai Kamaraj University, after Thiru. K. Kamaraj, a true dlsciple of Mahathma Gandhi, congress leader, freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Prior to the establishment of this University, all the academic and professional colleges in the State were affiliated to University of Madras. Since Annamalai University is only a Residential (Unitary) University, which has no affiliated institutions, outside its campus. Later when the Madurai Kamaraj University was established, the colleges in the Madurai, Dindigul Anna, Tirunelveli Kattabomman, V.O. Chidambaranar, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, Kamarajar, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari districts came under its jurisdiction. The colleges in the rest of the districts continued to be affiliated to the University of Madras, until the formation of other two universities at Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore at a later stage.

A significant growth in the higher education of Tamil Nadu, is the creation of four new Universities successively from 1981. They are Tamil University at Thanjavur(1981), Bharathidhasan University at Tiruchirappalli (1982), Bharathiar University at Coimbatore (1982) and a Women University at Kodaikkanal named after Mother Therasa(1984). Of these four, the Tamil and Women Universities do not have any affiliated colleges and are mostly research oriented institutions. The Bharathiar University has 32 colleges located in Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, and Periyar districts affiliated to it, while the Bharathidhasan University has 39 colleges in Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam Quaid-E- Milleth and Pudukkottai

districts. These two Universities have grown out of the postgraduate extension centres of the Madras University which functioned at Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore for a number of years with a few departments.

The formation of these universities helped in lightening the burden of the parent Madras University and also much to the satisfaction of the local people since the jurisdiction to the truncated Madras University is quite viable, with the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem and Dharmapuri.

Two of the new Universities have been named after the illustrious sons of the soil. The University at Tiruchirappalli was named after the revolutionary poet Bharathidhasan while the Coimbatore University was named after the patriotic Tamil Poet Subramanya Bharathi. The Women University at Kodaikkanal bears the name of the Nobel Laureate Mother Therasa.

In 1990 Manonmaniam Sundaranar University was formed with Tirunelveli its seat. The colleges in the Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli Kattabomman and V.O. Chidambaranar districts have been affiliated to this University.

In the year 1976-77 the Gandhigram Rural Institute of Higher Education, Gandhigram near Madurai was given the status of a "Deemed University". In this institute certificate, diploma, graduate, post-graduate and research degrees, mostly oriented with rural development on Gandhian principles are taught.

Besides these academic Universities, there are three Universities in Tamil Nadu exclusively for technical and professional education.

The first Technical University established was Agricultural University at Coimbatore in the year 1971. The Nucleus of the University was the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore which is one of the oldest Agricultural colleges in the country started as early as in 1907. The University has three academic campuses one each at Madurai (Agricultural College), Tuticorin (Fisheries College), Killikulam near Tirunelveli (Agricultural College). The veterinary college at Madras and Namakkal, either to affiliated to the Agricultural university, Coimbatore, have become affilited to the newly formed Tamilnadu veterinary, Madras. The Fisheries college, Tuticorin and the Agricultural college at Killikulam

near Tirunelveli, since their establishment in the year 1978 and 1984 respectively, have been under the control of the Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Besides these insitutions affiliated to this University, there are also 70 Research and Training Centres all over Tamil Nadu. For encouraging the higher level specialisation. The University also runs seven centres of excellence.

With the cherished objective of building up a centre of excellence in higher education and research in Engineering and Technology, the Anna University was established in September 1978. The University was named after C.N. Annadurai an orator, writer and a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. This University was formed by bringing together and integrating the four well known technical institutions in the city of Madras viz. the College of Engineering, Guindy, the Technology Department of the University of Madras situated in the Alagappa college of Technology campus, the School fo Architecture and Town Planning of the University of Madras and the Madras Institute of Technology, Chrompet. This University has 18 Departments under the various faculties.

The proposal of establishing a University exclusively for Medical Education in the State is also fulfilled with the inauguraion of the Dr.M.G.R Medical University, in the year 1988. This University is named after former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who during his tenure of office as Chief Minister had masterminded the formation of this University, but unfortunately passed away in December 1987 on the appointed day of the inauguration of the University. Consequently the inauguration was postponed and later took place in 1988. All the Medical and Pharmaceutical colleges in the State are affiliated to this University.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

The Collegiate education comprises of the studies for graduate and Post-Graduate degrees in subjects viz., science, arts, commerce, education and other humanities. In the general academic education, colleges are the apex institutions to teach higher studies though the Universities to which the colleges are affiliated, confer degrees.

Collegiate Education in Kanniyakumari district : Kanniyakumari even though a small district in Tamil Nadu has 15 colleges of which fourteen colleges educating arts and science subjects while the remaining college imparts training to graduate teachers. Two colleges are self-financing colleges, while others except one are private aided colleges. The Lakshmipuram college of Arts and Science at Neyyoor is under the care of Government.

Of the 15 colleges, one is exclusively for men, four colleges are for women, and the rest are meant for co-educational.

The history of the collegiate education in the district dates back to the year 1893, when the Nagercoil seminary founded by Rev. Mead in 1819 at Nagercoil was upgraded as a second grade college and affiliated to the University of Madras.

When started, this was one of the four colleges in the erstwhile Travancore native State and of the other three colleges, two were located at Trivandrum and one was located at Kottayam. All the colleges, except one of the two at Trivandrum, were run by the Christian Missionaries. The Government ran one of the colleges at Trivandrum.

This was the only one college in the area of present Kanniyakumari district up to 1952, when one more college, the South Travancore Hindu college, was added. These were the two colleges that existed when the district was formed, and merged with the Madras State in the year 1956. In the year 1964-65, two more colleges i.e. Christian College, Marthandam and Lakshmipuram college, Neyyoor were established bringing the total number of colleges into four.

In the next year viz. 1965-66, three more colleges were opened in the district and they were:-

(1) Vivekananda College, Agasthiswaram

(2) Holy Cross College, Nagercoil and (first women's college)

(3) Sree Devi Kumari Women's College at Thiruvattar (later shifted to Kuzhithurai)

During 1965-66, there were eight colleges in the district, including one graduate teachers training college at Athoor, established in the year 1963.

Later in the year 1967, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil was founded. In the year 1970-71, Sree Ayyappa College for women, Sunkankadai and Arignar Anna College, Aralvoimozhi were established and then the total number of the colleges in the district became eleven. The twelfth college in the district, viz., St. Jude's College at Thoothoor, was opened in the year 1988-89. In Nagercoil, Christian College for women was also opened.

Besides these 13 colleges, there are two self financing colleges and they are Muslim Arts and Science College at Thiruvithankodu and Sivanthi Adithan College at Nagercoil, both established in the year 1984, the youngest colleges in the district.

State Level Administration of Colleges : Prior to 1965, the Director of Public Instruction was Head of the Department at State level, for all the colleges in the State, besides his other functions. In 1965, a separate department of collegiate education was formed and the post of Director of Collegiate Education was created to look after exclusively the administration of colleges. Since, then all the colleges in the State have come under the adminsitrative control of the Director of Collegiate Education. With regard to aided colleges, the sanction of aids and other grants is accorded and the concurrences for the appointments of lecturers, professors and for other allied posts are given by the Director. In order to assist the Director, Regional administrative set up was also formed and consequently the State has been divided into five regions headed by Regional Deputy Directors. These regions are Madras, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore. The colleges in Kanniyakumari district come under the jurisdiction of the Regional Deputy Director of Collegiate Education, Tirunelveli.

College Administration. For each college the administrative head is the principal who is assisted by a vice-principal. Each department of studies is headed by a professor and head of the department and to assist him there are assistant professors, lecturers, and demonstrators.

For running the office administration of the college, Bursar is the head ministerial officer and he is assisted by managers, assistants, junior assistants, typists and office assistants.

In each college, there is also a physical education director to direct and coach the students in phyiscal education. The academic staff of the

colleges i.e. principal, professors and assistant professors and others are governed by the service conditions of the University Grant Commission of India. The academic control, such as granting affiliations to the courses in the colleges, increasing the strength in a course,conducting examinations, publishing results etc., are with the Universities, to which the colleges are affiliated.

The Scott Christian college in the erstwhile Travancore State had been affiliated to Madras University (between 1893 and 1937) and after the opening of Trivandrum University in 1938, it has jurisdiction over the college also. All the colleges in the area now in Kanniyakumari district were affiliated to Trivandrum University until the formation of the district in 1956 and afterwards all the colleges in the district came under the control of Madras University. In 1966 Madurai University (later became Madurai-Kamarajar University) was established and the University was having jurisdiction over Kanniyakumari district. Now, all the colleges in the district are affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University so far as academic control is concerned.

A brief account of the history, growth, courses offered and the functioning of each college in the district are given in the following paragraphs.

Scott Christian College, Nagercoil : It can be honestly proclaimed that the entire credit for the collegiate education having spread over the various parts of the district goes to Scott Christian College since the Nagercoil Seminary attained the statuts of a second grade college, having intermediate classes, in 1893. Later it was called Scott Christian College, named after Mr. Septimus R.Scott, an English philanthropist who contributed bounteously for the growth and development of the college. The first batch Students of this college consisted of Six Christians and six Hindus.

In the year 1950, the institution was upgraded to the level of a first grade college and degree courses in mathematics (B.Sc.) and history (B.A.) were started.[145] This was followed by the introduction of various courses in the years followed and the details are given below :–

Under Graduate Level :

Name of the degree (1)	Major subject (2)	Ancillaries (3)	Year of introduction (4)
B.A.	History	1. Economics 2. Modern Government	1954
B.A.	Economics	1. History 2. Elements of Economic Statistics	1954
B.A.	English		1971
B.A.	Tamil		1979
B.Sc.	Mathematics	1. Physics 2. Application of Mathematics	1950
B.Sc.	Chemistry (A)	1. Mathematics 2. Physics	1952
B.Sc.	Chemistry (B)	1. Physics 2. Zoology	1952
B.Sc.	Physics	1. Mathematics 2. Chemistry	1951
B.Sc.	Zoology	1. Chemistry 2. Botany	1956
B.Sc.	Botany	1. Zoology 2. Chemistry	1966.
B.Com.	Commerce		1978

Post-Graduate Courses :

Name of the degree (1)	Major subject (2)	year of introduction (3)
M.A.	Economics	1971
M.A.	English	1971
M.Sc.	Zoology	1980
M.Com	Commerce	1981
M.Sc	Chemistry	1982
M.Sc.	Botany	1983

(1)	(2)	(3)
M.Sc.	Physics	1987
M.Phil	Zoology	1983
M.Phil	Botany	1986
M.Phil	Economics	1986

As detailed in the table, this college introduced post-graduate degree courses in English and Economics in the year 1971 and later, post-graduate degrees in Zoology, Commerce, Chemistry, Botany and Physics were started gradually in this college. WIth the introduction of M.Phil., course in Zoology in 1983 and in Botany and Economics in 1986, it has attained the status of a research institution. This is a co-educational college. In this college, under part I of degree courses, beisdes Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi also are offered.

The details of the departmentwise teaching staff serving the institution are as follows :-

Name of the department (1)	*Total number of staff* (2)
Tamil	11
Malayalam	1
Hindi	1
English	1
Mathematics	6
Physics	9
Chemistry	13
Botany	11
Zoology	12
Economics	8
Commerce	8
History	10 + (1 Part-time advocate)
Physical Education	4
Librarian	1

Library : The library of this college has a collection of 52,024 books in all the subjects of studies.

SCOTT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL

The following table gives the total number of students in all the three years of study in degree courses and two years of study in post-graduate courses since 1979-80 :–

SCOTT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL.

Year	Total number of boys and girls separately in all the 3 years of Degree and 2 years of post graduate courses													
	B.A.		B.Sc.		B.Com.		M.A.		M.Sc.		M.Com.		M.Phil.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
1979-80	219	73	403	122	81	24	65	37	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980-81	350	77	400	126	137	32	64	36	13	7	-	-	-	-
1981-82	350	87	412	113	143	30	66	34	21	14	-	-	-	-
1982-83	388	95	442	147	183	19	65	41	18	31	-	-	-	-
1983-84	366	74	466	113	167	24	47	50	26	61	22	29	-	-
1984-85	341	74	467	115	163	32	60	48	29	76	14	35	-	-
1985-86	354	56	455	94	166	31	73	41	42	63	13	39	3	5
1986-87	324	42	429	97	171	26	63	47	36	70	24	33	4	6
1987-88	311	37	462	82	173	21	51	46	36	75	30	29	11	7
1988-89	209	35	406	93	155	20	61	40	50	99	25	28	11	13

Laboratories : Since there are number of science courses in graduate and post-graduate and research levels, the department of Physics, Chemistry, Botony and Zoology are having their own laboratories to meet the needs of both graduate and post graduate students in the respective subjects.

Extracurricular activities : There are 20 intra-college associations, the office bearers for which are elected every year. The names of the associations are :–

1. English (General)
2. English (Literary)
3. Tamil (General)
4. Tamil (Literary)
5. Malayalam
6. Hindi
7. Mathematics
8. Physics
9. Chemistry
10. Botany
11. Zoology
12. History
13. Economics
14. Commerce
15. Economics (Post-Graduate)
16. English (Post-Graduate)
17. Zoology (Post-Graduate)
18. Botany (Post-Graduate)
19. Chemistry (Post-Graduate)
20. Commerce (post-Graduate)

The National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, National Adult Education Programme, Planning Forum, Social Service League, Fine Arts Club, Photography Club, and Rotract Club are also functioning in the college. This college is run by the Kanniyakumari Diocese of Church of South India.

South Travancore Hindu College, Nagercoil :[146] The South Travancore Hindu College in the district, was established with the strenuous efforts of the South Travancore Hindu College Association, on 11th July

1952. At the beginning it was only a second grade college and it rose to first grade in 1955, when degree courses in Economics, Tamil, Maths and Commerce were introduced. It further grew into a post-graduate college in the year 1956, with the introduction of M.A. course in Tamil.

The details of the courses offered in this college and the year of the introduction of the courses are as follows :–

Degree courses :

Major subject (1)	*Year of introduction* (2)
I.B.A. –	
1. Economics	1955
2. Tamil	1955
3. English	1966
4. Sociology	1966
5. History	1972
II. B.Sc. –	
1. Mathematics	1955
2. Zoology	1957
3. Chemistry	1966
4. Physics	1972
5. Botany	1973
6. Computer Science	1986
III. B.Com. –	
Commerce	1955
IV. M.A. –	
1. Tamil	1955
2. Economics	1955
3. English	1979
4. History	1981
V. M.Sc. –	
1. Chemistry	1980
2. Physics	1983
3. Zoology	1984
VI. M.Com.	**1978**
Research Degrees –	
1. M. Phil. (Tamil)	1979
2. M.Phil. (Chemistry)	1986

Besides these graduate, post-graduate and research degree courses, the following diploma and certificate courses also are offered in this college :–

	Name of the diploma course *(1)*	*Year of introduction* *(2)*
1.	Diploma in Gandhian Thought.	1970
2.	Diploma in Linguistics.	1972
3.	Diploma in Marxian Thought and Ideology	1976
4.	Diploma in Business Administration	1977
5.	Diploma in Office Management	1979
6.	Diploma in Tourism	1979
7.	Diploma in Management	1979
8.	Diploma in Marketing and Foreign Trade	1979
9.	Diploma in Geography	1979
10.	Diploma in Mass Media and Communication	1979
11.	Diploma in Development Administration	1979
12.	Diploma in Public Enterprise	1979
13.	Diploma in Journalism	1979
14.	Diploma in Translation	1980
15.	Diploma in Personnel Management and Industrial Relation.	1980

Certificate Courses :–

	Name of the course *(1)*	*Year of introduction* *(2)*
1.	Post-Graduate Certificate in Teaching of English.	1984
2.	Certificate in Ghandhian Thought	1970
3.	Certificate in Indian Culture	1971
4.	Certificate in Linguistics	1972
5.	Cerificate in Salesmanship	1977
6.	Certificate in Journalism	1978
7.	Certificate in Functional and Conversational Hindi.	1988

These diploma and certificate courses are offered in the evening college functioning in this college. B.Com degree course is also offered both in regular and evening colleges.

This college is also a research institution, offering M.Phil degree course in Chemistry and Tamil and guides, scholars to do research in Tamil for Ph.D. degree of Madurai Kamarajar University.[147] This is a co-educational college.

The departmen-twise details of the teaching staff and students as in 1987-88, are as follows :-

Department (1)	*Total number of staff* (2)	*Total number of students* (3)
1. History	10	101
2. Economics	11	141
3. Sociology	5	45
4. English	17	73
5. Tamil	16	87
6. Malayalam	2	16
7. Hindi	1	6
8. Mathematics	7	81
9. Physics	11	85
10. Chemistry	13	120
11. Botany	5	83
12. Zoology	11	126
13. Computer Science	1	19
14. Commerce	11	22

Laboratories : There are also laboratories attached to the departments of Physcis, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Computer Science.

Library : The library of this college has a collection of 46,558 books and all the students are benefited by this.

Extra Curricular Activities : The college has a union, 21 faculty associations such as Tamil, English, Physics, etc., and Fine Arts Club. National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and National Adult

Education Programme Units are also functioning in this college. This college is run by the South Travancore Hindu College Association, Nagercoil.

Nesemony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam : The Christian College at Marthandam started functioning on 6 August 1964 with a pre-university course.[148] The college is founded and run by the Kanniyakumari Diocese of the Church of South-India. In the next year the college was upgraded and the degree courses in Mathematics, History and Economics were started. The branches of pre-university classes were also increased to five. New additions to the courses of the college in 1966-67 were B.Sc., Physics and one more branch of pre-university course. During 1967-68, degree courses in Zoology and History through Tamil medium were started and the number of branches in pre-univeristy course rose to eight. In the year 1968, B.Sc., degree in Chemistry was introduced. During the year 1971-72. Botany (B.Sc.) and English Literature (B.A.) were introduced. Its status was enhanced to that of a post-graduate college with the introduction of M.Sc. degree course in Physics and Maths in 1980-81 and 1981-82 respectively. In the year 1982-83, Commerce degree course (B.Com.) was also started. Post graduate (M.A.) degree course in History was introduced in the yar 1983-84. In 1984 this College was renamed as Nesamony Memorial Christian College after the name of A.Nesamony who had rendered many services for the foundation, growth and development of the college. During the year 1986-87, M.Phil course in History was added to the existing courses. The latest addition in the year 1988-89 is the B.Sc. degree courses in Computer Science. This is a co-educational college.

Besides Tamil, Malayalam is also offered under part-I in degree courses. The college is also having requisite laboratory facilities to conduct science experiments in under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The library of this college is well equipped with the financial assistance from the University Grants Commission.

Extra Curricular Activities : Besides the intra-college departmental assocations which promote cultural activities of the pupils, the units of National Cadet Corps, and National Service Schemes are also effectively functioning in this college.

The following table shows the gradual introductions of various courses, in the college :–

Name of the degree (1)	*Major subjects (2)*	*Year of introduction (3)*
B.Sc.	(1) Mathematics	1965-66
	(2) Physics	1966-67
	(3) Zoology	1967-68
	(4) Chemistry	1968-69
	(5) Botany	1971-72
	(6) Computer Science	1988-89
B.A.	(1) History (Tamil and English Medium)	1965-66
	(2) Economics	1965-66
	(3) English	1971-72
	(4) Tamil	1980-81
B.Com.	Commerce	1982-83
M.Sc.	(1) Physics	1980-81
	(2) Mathematics	1981-82
M.A.	History	1983-84
M.Phil.	History	1987-88

The total number of students in all the three years of study in the degree courses, two years of study in post-graduate courses and one year of study in M.Phil. course is given in the following table :–

NESAMONY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, MARTHANDAM

year	Total number of boys and girls separately in all the 3 years of Degree and 2 years of Post-Graduate course											
	B.A.		B.Sc.		B.Com.		M.A.		M.Sc.		M.Phil.	
	Boys	Girls	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1979-80	431	136	370	122	-	-	-	-	26	18	-	-
1980-81	457	200	380	144	-	-	-	-	25	19	-	-
1981-82	453	255	368	186	31	91	-	-	29	27	-	-
1982-83	397	253	339	226	62	39	14	12	33	24	-	-
1983-84	365	245	308	260	110	62	35	21	26	30	-	-
1984-85	402	238	313	255	126	72	40	18	22	39	-	-
1985-86	364	244	339	252	120	80	37	25	19	49	4	2
1986-87	398	260	313	235	115	77	34	28	26	50	4	2
1987-88	320	254	290	236	94	76	31	27	31	41	3	3

The teaching staff of this college consists of 67 professors and 38 assistant professors.

Lakshmipuram College of Arts and Science, Neyyoor : The Lakshmipuram College of Arts and Science at Neyyoor was started by the Lakshmipuram College Society on 16th July 1964 with the pre-university courses, having 180 students and 16 teaching staff. In the year 1966, it rose to the status of first grade college as the degree courses in History, Mathematics and Zoology were introduced.[149] In the year 1967, Tamil Medium Branch of B.A. History course was started. Degree courses in Physics (B.Sc.) and English (B.A.) were introduced in the year 1979. The latest course started in the college is B.A. degree in Tamil in the year 1980.

Due to some difference of opinion among the members of the management of the college, Government of Tamil Nadu took over the administration of the college. This is a co-educational Institution.[150]

This college has a library which contains a collections of 12,584 books and subscribes to 23 journals. National Cadets Corps and National Service Schemes are functioning in this college. This college runs adult education centres since 1978. During the year 1986-87, thirty centres were run by the college.

LAKSHMIPURAM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, NEYYOOR

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH YEAR OF STUDY OF THE COURSES SINCE 1979-80.

year	B.A. History (EM)			B.A. History (TM)			B.A. Tamil			B.A. English			B.Sc. Maths			B.Sc. physics			B.Sc. zoology		
	years			years			years			Years			Years			years			years		
	i	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)
1979-80	47	29	21	49	25	15	-	-	-	24	NA	NA	23	31	28	20	NA	NA	33	29	27
1980-81	60	45	37	60	52	27	22	NA	-	34	22	NA	45	23	27	30	20	NA	40	30	31
1981-82	38	54	43	40	52	49	15	19	NA	32	30	22	45	41	24	30	29	19	40	38	30
1982-83	40	34	51	36	40	51	12	15	18	32	28	30	42	42	40	40	28	29	30	40	34
1983-84	35	38	32	37	36	35	9	9	14	28	31	26	43	42	42	29	29	24	40	40	39
1984-85	32	38	40	27	36	31	23	26	9	13	10	30	39	42	41	27	29	29	40	36	38
1985-86	20	35	25	24	24	40	5	13	12	14	23	24	30	38	41	30	24	28	37	39	36
1986-87	19	17	27	38	19	21	6	5	12	13	12	22	21	26	36	24	25	19	40	32	38
1987-88	9	18	16	32	35	19	11	6	5	17	9	29	20	21	26	28	24	22	36	36	30

NA = Not Available.

Vivekananda College, Agasthiswaram : Vivekananda Educational Society, formed in 1964 with the main object of starting a full fledged college at Agasthiswaram in commemoration of the birth centenary of Swami Vivekananda by S. Pandian and others, achieved its goal on 11th August 1965, when the Vivekananda college was started.[151] In the first year of its functioning, the college offered pre-university courses in Science and Humanities. The total strength of students in the first year was 167.

Degree courses in Economic (B.A.) and Maths (B.Sc.) were introduced in 1966 and in the following year (1967), degree course in English Literature (B.A.) was started.

The college was further expanded and the courses in B.Sc. Chemistry in 1968 and B.Sc. Zoology in 1969 were started. Affiliation from the Madurai Kamarajar University to start the courses of B.Sc. (Physics) and B.Com. were also obtained and the courses started in 1979 and 1981 respectively. Later, the courses of B.Sc. (Botany) B.A. (Tamil Literature) the post-graduate courses in Economics (M.A.) and Mathematics (M.Sc.) were introduced. Initially it was started as a men's college and later in 1973, it was converted into a co-educational institution.

The units of National Service Scheme and National Cadet Corps are functioning in the college. The college is having laboratory facilities to teach science subjects and the first laboratory block of this college was denoted by one Mr. S.K. Pandian, an eminent lawyer as well as philanthrophist of Nagercoil.

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE, AGASTHISWARAM

The following table shows the total number of boys and girls in all the three years of degree and two years of post - graduate courses in the college from 1979-80.

Year	B.A.		B.Sc.		B.Com		M.A.		M.Sc.	
	Boys	Girls	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1979-80	146	52	180	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980-81	149	53	187	43	-	-	-	-	-	-
1981-82	141	59	186	44	51	13	-	-	-	-
1982-83	150	56	138	72	99	32	-	-	-	-
1983-84	141	65	214	90	140	51	-	-	-	-
1984-85	124	59	210	103	133	52	16	5	-	-
1985-86	104	64	190	95	117	56	28	12	16	4
1986-87	87	50	182	108	105	61	28	11	29	11
1987-88	91	74	201	117	116	67	32	8	24	16
1988-89	87	66	108	142	96	64	32	7	19	20

Holy Cross College, Nagercoil : The Holy Cross College Nagercoil was established in the year 1965 by the Congregation of Sisters of the Cross of Chavaned and it continues to be under their administrations.[151A] For the first time in the district two colleges were opened exclusively for girls and the Holy Cross College was one of them, while the other was Sree Devi Kumari Women's College, Kuzhithurai. To start with, there were four sections of pre-university courses and the total number of girls studied in the first year of opening of the college was 327. In the year 1966, the college was upgraded to the status of a first grade college as the B.Sc. degree courses in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology and B.A. degree courses in History, Economics and English literature were started.

The first post-graduate course introduced in this College was M.A. in English literature in the year 1971 and the courses of M.Sc. Maths and Zoology were started in the year 1978 and 1979 respectively. The latest post-graduate course introduced in the college is M.Sc. in Physics in the year 1984. Degree course in Commerce also has been taught since 1980. Besides the degree courses, certificate course in Gandhian Thought also is offered in this college. The college is having a hostel since 1966 and now there are three hostel buildings of two storeys each, which can accommodate about 350 students. Laboratory and library facilities, the essential ingredients of a college are also available. The library of this college has a collection of 9,561 books which were all acquired out of the grants extended by the University Grants Commission. Book Bank also is functioning in this college.

Extra Curricular Activities : Two units of National Service Scheme is functioning in this college, since 1973-74. Since 1979, the college runs 10 adult education centres. There are 30 student instructors, one supervisor and one programme officer to teach and step up the progress of education in the centres. More than 300 adult learners are benefited by the centres every year. There is also a good library containing books for the use of learners through the adult education centres. Since 1972 a branch of Rotract club is functing in this college.

The following table shows the various courses offered in the college with the years of their introduction :–

Name of the degree (1)	*Major Subjects* (2)	*Year of Introduction* (3)
B.Sc.	(1) Mathematics	1966
	(2) Physics	"
	(3) Chemistry	"
	(4) Botany	"
	(5) Zoology	"
B.A.	(1) History	1966
	(2) Economics	"
	(3) English Literature	"
B.Com.	Commerce	1980
M.A	English	1971
M.Sc.	(1) Mathematics	1978
	(2) Zoology	1978
	(3) Physics	1984

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE – NAGERCOIL

The following table gives the deatils of the total number of girls in each branch of studies (i.e.) B.A. B.Sc. and M.Sc. in this college since 1979-80.

Year	B.A. Years			B.Sc. Years			B.Com. Years			M.A. Years		M.Com. Years	
	i	*II*	*III*	*i*	*II*	*III*	*i*	*II*	*III*	*I*	*II*	*I*	*II*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
1979-80	139	89	85	174	167	156	-	-	-	19	15	34	13
1980-81	129	134	87	200	171	164	161	-	-	19	15	41	30
1981-82	115	117	128	206	177	166	66	59	-	20	19	42	40
1982-83	145	104	116	206	197	174	63	60	57	20	20	41	42
1983-84	145	135	102	215	199	192	65	57	50	22	20	40	41
1984-85	136	135	131	211	199	191	64	68	55	19	22	52	38
1985-86	101	128	133	186	197	192	65	63	65	21	18	52	53
1986-87	116	94	124	209	173	191	60	61	60	20	20	52	52
1987-88	101	101	92	180	201	171	58	55	54	17	19	54	50
1988-89	90	94	98	196	179	199	57	54	54	12	16	50	52

The total number of teachers teaching in the college is 83. The department-wise particulars are given below :–

Name of the department (1)		*Total No. of teachers* (2)
1. English	..	17
2. Tamil	..	8
3. Malayalam	..	1
4. French	..	1
5. History	..	5
6. Economics	..	5
7. Commerce	..	16
8. Maths	..	12
9. Physics	..	12
10. Chemistry	..	8
11. Botany	..	6
12. Zoology	..	12
Total	..	93

Sree Devi Kumari Women's College, Kuzhithurai : Sree Devi Kumari Women's College was started in the year 1965 at Thiruvattar and later it was shifted to Kuzhithurai.[152] This college was established by the Kanniyakumari Devaswoms Board and it is now under the management of the Incorporated and Unincorporated Devaswoms.

It was started with pre-university courses in 1965 and in the next year affiliation was granted by the Madurai University to start degree courses in Economics (B.A.) Chemistry (B.Sc.) and Zoology (B.Sc.) The degree courses in Maths, Botany, and Commerce were introduced in the college in the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 respectively.

The library of this college is having 1748 volumes of books. The various departments of this college are having departmental Associations such as Economic Association, Tamil Association, Chemistry Association, Mathematics Association, etc. The National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) Unit, Planning Forum and Socal Service League are also functioning in this college.

The following table shows the courses of study offered in this college and the years of their introduction :–

Name of the degree. (1)	Major subjects (2)	Year of introduction. (3)
B.A.	Economics	1966
B.Sc.	1) Chemistry	1966
	2) Zoology	1966
	3) Maths	1985
	4) Botany	1986
B.Com.	Commerce	1987.

The details of the total number of students studied in all the three years of B.A. and B.Sc. courses and the teaching staff since 1980-81, are given in the table below :–

Year (1)	Students in B.A. (2)	Students in B.Sc. (3)	Students in B.Com. (4)	Number of teachers. (5)
1980-81	124	158	—	30
1981-82	162	170	—	30
1982-83	152	182	—	31
1983-84	150	175	—	32
1984-85	120	193	—	31
1985-86	100	235	—	33
1986-87	100	279	—	32
1987-88	87	312	40	35

Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil : Pioneer Kumarasamy College was started by the family members of S. Kumarasamy (1897-1960), a prominent[153] citizen and an industrialist of the district in the year 1967. This college was started with pre-university classes and in the next year the Madurai University granted affiliation to start the degree courses in Economics (B.A.), Zoology (B.Sc.) and Commerce (B.Com.). In 1969, further affiliation was granted for B.Sc. degree in Mathematics. Subsequently, degree courses in Physics in the year 1972, Chemistry in the year 1975 and Tamil and English literature in 1979 were also started in the college.

The following table shows the courses of study offered in this college and the years of their introduction :–

Name of degree (1)	*Major subjects* (2)	*Year of introduction.* (3)
B.A.	Economics	1968
B.Sc.	Zoology	1968
B.Com.	Commerce	1968
B.Sc.	Mathematics	1969
B.Sc.	Physics	1972
B.Sc.	Chemistry	1975
B.A.	Tamil	1979
B.A.	English	1979
M Com	Commerce	1988

It is a college of co-education. For sometime, from 1st December 1978, the college was taken over by the Government due to some differences of opinion among the members of management committee and therefore it continued to be under the Government care. The Deputy Director of Collegiate Education, at Tirunelveli Region was the care taker. But, later the administration was handed over again to the management and now the college is managed by an Educational Society, founded by Dr. K. Padmanabhan, a member of the Pioneer Kumaraswamy Family.[153A]

The total number of students in all the 3 years of degree courses and two years post-graduate courses, since 1979-80 is given below.

Year	*B.A. Tamil*		*B.A. English*		*B.Com.*		*B.Sc.,*		*M.Com.*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)*	*(8)*	*(9)*	*(10)*	*(11)*
1979-80	21	–	40	–	117	–	214	–	–	–
1980-81	41	–	61	–	181	–	308	–	–	–
1981-82	40	–	61	–	167	–	325	–	–	–
1982-83	31	–	51	–	194	–	246	–	–	–
1983-84	16	–	30	–	186	–	278	–	–	–
1984-85	8	1	21	3	163	22	256	21	–	–
1985-86	4	1	18	4	135	36	293	44	–	–
1986-87	10	–	23	4	119	47	212	70	–	–
1987-88	8	2	18	1	128	36	209	63	10	10

There is a collection of 13, 085 books in the library of the college. An hostel is also run by the college.

Extra Curricular Activities : There are student associations for each department of studies such as English, Tamil, Maths, Physics, Chemistry Biology and Commerce. Besides these, Planning Forum, Social Service League, Fine Arts Club and Hobby Club are also functioning. The National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps, and National Adult Educational Programme are also functoning in the College.

Arignar Anna College, Aralvoimozhi : Arignar Anna College at Aralvoimozhi was started on 1st July 1970 by the Kanniyakumari Educational Society, the chief patrons of which have been M. Sankaralingam, Chidambarathan and V. Paravaikkarasu.[153A]

The college was started with all the groups in pre-university Course i.e. Science, Maths and Arts and subsequently degree courses in History, Economics, Mathematics, Botany and Commerce were introduced. Later, in the Science degree courses, Chemistry, Zoology, and Physics and post-graduate course in History were also started in the college.

The following table gives the details of various courses offered in this college and the years of introduction of the courses :–

Sl.No. (1)	*Year (2)*	*Name of degrees (3)*	*Subject (4)*
1.	1970-71	B.A.	Economics
2.	1971-72	B.Sc.	Mathematics
3.	1972-73	B.Sc.	Botany
4.	1973-74	B.A.	History
5.	1975-76	B.Com.	Commerce
6.	1979-80	B.Sc.	Chemistry
7.	1983-84	B.Sc.	Zoology
8.	1988-89	B.Sc.	Physics
9.	1984-85	M.A.	History.

There are no hostel facilities in the college. There is a book bank functioning in the college containing 3,963 books. About 300 students are benefited by this book bank every year. The college library contains a collection of 17, 287 books. Laboratory facilities are sufficient in the college to teach the science subjects. The National Service Scheme was started in this college in 1975. There are two units of National Service Scheme in the college.

Until 1986-87 it was a college exclusively for boys and from the year 1987-88, it began to admit girls also. The following table gives the total number of teachers in the college and the students underwent instructions in each course in this college since 1985-86.

Total number of department and teachers in each of them:

Tamil	..	5
English	..	5
History	..	8
Economics	..	5
Mathematics	..	5
Physics	..	2
Chemistry	..	5
Botany	..	5
Zoology	..	5
Commerce	..	7
Physical Education	..	1
Library	..	1

ARIGNAR ANNA COLLEGE – ARALVOIMOZHI

Sl. No.	Name of Degree	Total strength of students in I, II and III years of degrees and I and II years of P.G																	
		1985-86 (Boys only)			1986-87 (Boys only)			1987-88						1988-89					
		I	II	III	I	II	III	I		II		III		I		II		III	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
1.	B.A. History	13	16	27	12	12	14	19	4	10	-	12	-	9	10	18	4	9	-
2.	B.A. Economics	21	32	31	20	21	31	36	-	18	-	20	-	14	-	36	-	18	-
3.	B.Sc. Mathematics	20	32	33	13	18	31	14	1	12	-	18	-	15	-	14	-	12	-
4.	B.Sc. Physics	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	-	-	-
5.	B.Sc. Chemistry	20	20	21	21	19	19	18	1	16	-	19	-	18	8	18	1	16	-
6.	B.Sc. Botany	7	11	-	9	4	10	19	4	8	-	4	-	9	6	19	4	7	-
7.	B.Sc. Zoology	13	21	20	22	13	19	16	4	22	-	13	-	13	6	15	3	22	-
8.	B.Sc., B.Com.	61	57	50	48	56	53	42	11	43	-	53	-	42	12	42	11	44	-
9.	M.A. (History)	20	20	-	19	20	-	10	2	16	-	-	-	14	4	10	2	-	-

Sri Ayyappa College For Women, Chungankadai, Nagercoil : Sri Ayyappa Educational Society started a college for men at Chungankadai near Nagercoil in the year 1969-70 with pre–university course. In the next year this college was converted into a women's college.[154]

This college offers B.A. degree course in History through the media of English and Tamil. Other courses, offered in the college are B.A. in English Literature, B.Sc. in Mathematics, Zoology, Botany and Physics and B.Com. This college has become a post-gradute institution from 1986-87 with the introduction of Post–Graduate degree Course, M.A. in the English Language and Literature.

The following table gives the details about the years of introduction of the courses offered in this college :

Sl. No.	*Year*	*Name of the degree introduced*	*Subject*
1.	1970-71	B.A.	History
2.	1971-72	B,A.	English Literature
3.	1975-76	B.Sc.	Zoology
4.	1979-80	B.Sc.	Maths
5.	1979-80	B.Sc.	Botany
6.	1981-82	B.Com	Commerce
7.	1984-85	B.Sc.	Physics
8.	1986-87	M.A.	English Literature

Total number of girls in all the 3 years of degree and 2 years of post-graduate courses :

Year	*B.A.*	*B.Sc.*	*B.Com.*	*M.A.*	*Total No.of teachers.*
1980-81	260	229	–	–	43
1981-82	267	307	45	–	44
1982-83	230	346	101	–	44
1983-84	219	350	175	–	54
1984-85	195	346	178	–	54
1985-86	165	340	185	–	57
1986-87	147	350	186	15	57
1987-88	166	370	188	25	61
1988-89	140	355	154	30	61

Under part I in degree classes, the college offers Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi languages. An hostel is attached to the college. There are also library and laboratories.

Extra Curricular Activities : The units of National Service Scheme, Rotract Club and Planning Forum are functioning in this college, besides the departmental student associations.

St. Jude's College, Thoothoor : St. Jude's College at Thoothoor was opened in the years 1980-81 by the Latin Catholic Fishermen's Educational Society.[155] The society runs this college and it consists of 26 Catholic priests of Thoothoor Vicariate of the Diocese of Trivandrum and Colachel Vicariate of the Diocese of Kottar.The main object of the opening of this college at Thoothoor was to serve the poor fishermen of Thoothoor and neighbouring villages, who could not afford to go to the distant places for collegiate education.

The college started functioning with B.A. degree course in History and B.Sc. degree course in Zoology in 1980-81. Subsequently B.Com. degree course and B.Sc. degree courses in Mathematics, Botany, Physics and B.A. degree course in English literature have been introduced. The details of the years of the introduction of the courses, and students strength in each courses since 1980-81 are given in the following tables :

TABLE I

Name of the Degree	*Year of Introduction*
B.A. History	1980-81
B.Sc. Zoology	1980-81
B.Com,	1981-82
B.Sc. Maths	1982-83
B.Sc. Botany	1984-85
B.Sc. Physics	1986-87
B.A. English	1987-88

ST. JUDE'S COLLEGE, THOOTHOOR

Year	B.A.						B.Sc.						B.Com.					
	Years						*Years*						*Years*					
	I		*II*		*III*		*I*		*II*		*III*		*I*		*II*		*III*	
	B	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*	*B*	*G*
1980-81	28	12	—	—	—	—	14	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981-82	29	12	28	12	—	—	13	14	14	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1982-83	22	27	30	12	29	12	37	35	13	14	14	10	56	9	54	15	—	—
1983-84	19	21	22	26	22	11	43	31	32	36	13	14	54	11	52	10	46	14
1984-85	25	24	18	22	23	26	50	61	41	30	33	36	50	15	54	11	52	10
1985-86	27	18	25	24	17	21	56	56	48	60	39	31	45	20	47	15	52	11
1986-87	39	21	27	18	25	24	68	44	56	56	48	60	42	23	45	20	47	15
1987-88	47	17	37	19	21	18	79	57	70	60	53	14	50	14	39	23	44	19
1988-89	26	31	40	14	34	17	70	61	72	56	64	58	28	15	50	13	35	21

B — Boys ; G — Girls

TABLE III

Name of Department	*Total number of Teaching staff*
Tamil ..	4
Malayalam .	1
English ..	8
History ..	4
Economics ..	1
Rural Sociology ..	1
Mathematics ..	5
Physics ..	4
Chemistry ..	3
Botany ..	5
Zoology ..	5
Fisheries ..	1
Commerce ..	6
Physical Education ..	1
Library ..	1

This co-educational college is having library and laboratory facilities to cater the needs of the students of this college.

Muslim Arts and Science College, Thiruvithankodu : The Muslim Educational Society, founded in 1981, with the object of fulfilling a long felt need of starting a college in Kanniyakumari district for the development of cultural and educational requirements of the muslims, a minority community, started the Muslim Arts and Science College in the year 1984 with the degree course in Commerce. This is a self-financing college.[156]

In the year 1985, degree courses in History, (B.A.), Mathematics and Physics (B.Sc) were introduced in the college. The degree courses in Corporate Secretaryship (B.A.) and Zoology (B.Sc.) were introduced in the years 1986 and 1987 respectively. The following table will show the degree courses offered in the college and the years of their introduction.

Name of degree (1)	*Major Subjects (2)*	*Year of Introduction (3)*
B.Com.	Commerce	1984
B.A.	History	1985

(1)	(2)	(3)
B.Sc.	Maths	1985
B.Sc.	Physics	1985
B.A.	Corporate Secretaryship	1986
B.A.	Zoology	1987

The details of students underwent instruction in this college since its opening, are tabled below :

Name of the Degree (1)	Total strength of students in the I, II and III years				
	1984-85 (2)	1985-86 (3)	1986-87 (4)	1987-88 (5)	1988-89 (6)
B.Com.	12	83	150	184	173
B.A. (History)	—	34	72	82	80
B.Sc. (Maths)	—	28	50	67	57
B.Sc. (Physics)	—	27	58	77	74
B.A. (Cor.Secy.)	—	—	32	74	92
B.Sc. (Zoology)	—	—	—	26	51

The number of teaching staff as in 1987 in the college is as follows :

Name of the Department (1)	Total number of Teaching staff (2)
Tamil ..	4
English ..	5
Malayalam ..	1
History ..	5
Commerce ..	7
Maths ..	5
Physics ..	6
Zoology ..	4
Botany ..	1

(1)		(2)
Economics	..	2
Chemistry	..	1
Corporate Secretaryship	..	4

This is a co-educational college. The science departments of this college are having adequate laboratory facilities. There is also a good library containing 1500 volumes of books in this college.

The departmental students associations and a unit of National Service Schemes are functioning in the college for improving the extra curricular activities of this college.

Sivanthi Adhitanar College, Pillayarpuram, Nagercoil. The Thenkumari Kalvi Kazhagam, Pillayarpuram started a college, called Sivanthi Adhitanar College, on 12th July 1984 at Pillayarpuram, Nagercoil.[157]

This is a co-educational college and it was started with B.A. degree courses in History and Economics, B.Sc. degree courses in Mathematics and Physics and Commerce degree course (B.Com). The following table shows the various degree courses offered in this college and the years of their introduction :

Name of Degree	*Major Subjects*	*Year of Introduction*
B.A.	History	1984-85
B.A.	Economics	1984-85
B.Sc.	Maths	1984-85
B.Com.	Commerce	1984-85
B.Sc.	Zoology	1985-86
B.Sc.	Physics	1985-86
B.Sc.	Computer Science	1986-87

The total number of boys and girls studied in all the three years of study in the degree courses of the college since 1984-85.

Year	B.A. (Years) I	II	III	B.Sc. (Years) I	II	III	B.Com (Years) I	II	III
1984-85	48	–	–	38	–	–	63	–	–
1985-86	26	47	–	67	23	–	50	63	–
1986-87	51	28	38	107	58	23	65	62	46
1987-88	58	47	26	103	101	36	69	62	60
1988-89	22	52	45	100	93	98	49	62	58

The following are details about the teaching and library staff in each Department.

Name of the Department		*Teachers*
Tamil	..	3
English	..	3
History	..	4
Economics	..	4
Mathematics	..	4
Physics	..	7
Zoology	..	4
Commerce	..	5
Chemistry	..	1
Botany	..	1
Computer Science	..	4
Law (Part time)	..	1
Physical Education Director	..	1
Librarian	..	1

A library, having about 2000 books is in the College. The departments of Science subjects are having laboratories as prescribed by the norms of the University. Besides the departmental level students associations, there are two units of National Service Scheme functioning in the college.

The Mother Therasa Women's University, Kodaikanal has proposed to establish a study centre in every district to extend the research activities and social welfare schemes for the welfare of women. Accordingly, in Kanniyakumari district, the university opened a study centre on 30th March 1987. The Centre is at present functioning in the campus of Sivanthi Aditanar College.[158]

Women's Christian College. Nagercoil. : The Kanniyakumari Diocese of the Church of South India runs three colleges in the district and one of them is the Women's Christian College, Nagercoil the others being the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil and Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam which have already, been dealt with.

This college which was started in the year 1974-75, offers degree courses in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology and Botany. This is a post graduate college offering M.A. degree courses in History, English Literature and Tamil Literature and M.Sc. degree course in Botany.[159]

This College is housed in the old building where the Scott Christian College (Men) was functioning from 1893 to 1974-75. When the Women Christian College was started, the Scott Christian College was shifted to its new premises near Pharvathipuram.

The following Tables-I and II give the details about the courses offered in the college, years of their introduction and the total number of girls studied in the college since 1979-80 and the total number of teachers teaching in this institution.

TABLE I

Names of the courses taught and years of introduction .

Degree (1)	*Subject (2)*	*Year of Introduction (3)*
B.A.	History	1977
	Economics	1986
	English	1980
	Tamil	1975
B.Sc.	Maths	1979

	Physics	1985
	Chemistry	1979
	Botany	1975
	Zoology	1983
Computer Science		1987
B.Com.		1977
M.A. History		1984
M.Sc. Botany		1981

N.V.K.S.D. College of Education, Attoor : The N.V.K.S.D. College of Education which started functioning in July 1963 is owned by the Nalloor Vettuvanni Kandan Sastha Devaswom. This college is managed by a governing body elected by the N.V.K.S. Educational Society. The Trustees of The N.V.K.S. Devaswom are five persons belonging to Nair Families, the managing committee of the Devaswom presided over by K.P.Ramakrishna Pillai, decided in October 1961 to utilise its funds for establishing educational institutions. Consequently, the N.V.K.S.D. Teachers College, a long felt need of the district, was opened in July 1963.

This college offers degree course in Education (B.Ed.) The post graduate degree in Education (M.Ed.) was started in the college in 1987 in commemoration of the silver jubilee celebration of the institution. The total number of students in the first batch of M.Ed. Course was 15.

It is the only teachers training college in the district and it offers co-education. There is a college library which has a collection of 7337 books on educaion and various subjects.

WOMEN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL

TABLE-II
STRENGTH OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

	B.A.	*B.Sc.*	*B.Com*	*M.A.*	*M.Sc.*	*Total*	*Strength of Teachers*
1979-80	160	185	210	—	—	555	40
1980-81	235	250	205	—	—	690	47
1981-82	293	320	210	—	17	840	50
1982-83	300	340	212	—	34	904	55
1983-84	333	345	206	—	34	918	60
1984-85	322	375	210	25	35	967	65
1985-86	356	420	216	48	37	1077	68
1986-87	361	525	242	49	44	1221	78
1987-88	443	591	232	49	40	1335	80
1988-89	472	641	227	49	34	1423	89

Statistics are given for all the three years of all the degree courses and two years of postgraduate courses.

The yearwise total number of teachers so far shaped by this institution and the teachers who shaped them are given below.[159A]

Year	*Total Number of Trainees*	*Total Number of Teachers.*
1963-64	60	6
1964-65	60	6
1965-66	60	6
1966-67	75	6
1967-68	100	6
1968-69	110	7
1969-70	60	6
1970-71	60	7
1971-72	70	8
1972-73	65	8
1973-74	85	8
1974-75	80	7
1975-76	80	10
1976-77	70	10
1977-78	90	10
1978-79	90	10
1979-80	130	10
1980-81	130	10
1981-82	100	10
1982-83	100	10
1983-84	100	10
1984-85	110	10
1985-86	110	10
1986-87	110	12
1987-88	115	13

In this college, a post-graduate diploma course in pre-school education was offered in the years 1977-78 and 1978-79. Every year, 20 students were admitted but the course was later discontinued.

In the B.Ed. course, the optional subjects offered in the college are English, Mathematics, Bio-Science and History. Geography was also

offered in the year 1968-69, but it was later discontinued. From the year 1976-77, the subject, pre-school education has also been offered as one of the optional subjects in B.Ed.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION : The professional education includes pursuing studies in Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Law etc. after the completion of Higher Secondary Education.

In Kanniyakumari district, there are no professional colleges, except one Homoeo Medical College at Attoor. For the professional studies eligible candidates from the district have to migrate to the nearest town like Trivandrum, where there are all kinds of professional colleges, since it is the capital of Kerala Government. In Thirunelveli, there is Medical and Engineering Colleges. In Madurai there are Medical, Law, Engineering and Agricultural Colleges.

WHITE MEMORIAL HOMOEO MEDICAL COLLEGE- ATTOOR : The White Memorial Homoeo College at Attoor was started in the year 1976 as a private homoeo medical college by the White Memorial Educational Trust.[160] The Tamil Nadu Homoeopathy Council granted provisional affiliation to this college in the year 1982, for starting D.H.M.S. (Diploma in Homoeopathy Medicine and Surgery) Course. The Council in its meeting held on 20 June 1988 granted permanent affiliation to the college and also granted permission to offer degree course in Homeo Medicine. (B.H.M.S. Bachelor of Homoeopathy Medicine and Surgery).

The duration of the D.H.M.S., course is 4½ years including six month internship. The duration of the degree course (B.H.M.S.) is 5½ years including one year internship. Now the college is offering both diploma and degree courses. Now the college is affiliated to Dr.M.G.R. Medical University of Tamilnadu.

Technical Education : In the ancient time, the technical education was a traditional one. If a father professed a profession like medicines, masonry, gardening, weaving, etc. his sons and successors also followed suit and later it became their family profession. But, with the advent of the Industrial revolution and the expansion of scientific advancement, it became necessary to pick up suitable persons to study various technical studies like engineering, mechanism etc., according to their taste and choice.

It is evident that there were many technicians and engineers under the services of the monarchs. The palatial bungalows, the Padmanabhapuram palace, and the temples in the district might be the outcome of the workmanship of adept technicians. One would wonder how the subways which was said to have been laid between Padmanabhapuram palace and Vattakkottai and the massive towers (Gopuras) of Sucindram and other temples were built in the period which was scientifically not so advanced. Hence, it may be concluded that the technical education attained a modern and uniform system throughout the State in the 19th century and the history of the technical skill of the people is traced back to the origin of humanity.

However, the systematic industrial schools in the district were established by the Christian Missionaries in 1820 and thereafter and the details have been dealt under the caption Missionary Enterprises and the Dawn of Western Education in the District of this chapter.

Many of the old industrial schools established by the Missionaries in Nagercoil, Neyyoor, Mulagumoodu etc., faded away later one by one due to one or other reasons and one private non-mission aided industrial school by name Sri Moolam Rama Varma (S.M.R.V.) Technical School which was taken over by the then Travancore Government in the year 1905-1906 continues even today in the name S.M.R.V. Government Industrial Training Institute for Women. Initially, in this school trainings in weaving, carpentry, blacksmithy, surveying and overseeing were imparted.[161]

Administration of Technical Education : The technical educational institutions include engineering colleges, polytechnics, typewriting institutes, commercial schools and other special institutions. Though in the industrial training institutes, engineering subjects and trades are taught, they continue to be controlled by the Director of Employment and Training, Madras, from the begining, while the Technical Education was first under the control of the Director of Public Instructions and with effect from 14th October 1957, the newly created Department of Technical Education headed by the Director of Technical Education.[162]

The Directorate of Technical Education and the State Board of Technical Education and Training were simultaneously formed. The vice-chancellors of the state universities, principals of technical institutions leading industrialists' technocrats, state and central government officials

and Heads of related departments (Industry, Commerce and Education) form the Board with the Minister for Education, as its Chairman.[163] This Board advised the Government, in the matter of technical education granting affiliation, recognition to technical institutions and formulating the Government policy on technical education.

At the national level, the top most policy making body in technical education is the All India Council for Technical Education. There are regional committees for the council. Tamil Nadu comes under the purview of the southern regional committee, the jurisdiction of which extends over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala States and the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Minicoy and Andaman Islands.

Position in the District : In Kanniyakumari district, in order to impart technical education, the following institution are there:—

(1) Six polytechnics of which one is run by the Government, one by an aided private management and four by the private self-financing agencies.[164]

(2) Eighteen industrial training institutes of which two are run by the Government and sixteen run by private managements.

(3) Seventy commercial schools approved by the Government and more than 63 unapproved commercial schools.

List of Industrial Training Institutes is given below :[165]

Sl. No.	Name of the I.T.I	Agency which runs the Institute
1.	Govt. I.T.I, Nagercoil	Government
2.	S.M.R.V. Govt. I.T.I for Women, Nagercoil	Government
3.	St. Lawrance I.T.I., Nagercoil	Private
4.	Nirmala Institute of Technology, Manalikarai	Private
5.	Christian Mission Service I.T.I, Azhakiapandiapuram	Private
6.	Mather I.T.I Kuzhithurai	Private
7.	Nava Bharath I.T.I Kuzhithurai	Private
8..	J.M., I.T.I. Coachel	Private
9.	Technical Institute of Engineering, and I.T.C. Nagercoil	Private
10.	Bharath Engineering Training Centre, Nagercoil	Private
11.	Kanniyakumari Diocese C.S.I. I.T.I., Muttom	Private
12.	St. John, I.T.I., Marthandam	Private

13.	Nesamony I.T.I., Nagercoil	Private
14.	J.E., I.T.I. Thuckalay	Private
15.	Friends I.T.I., Mathicode	Private
16.	Institute of Industrial Training, Munchirâi	Private
17.	A.M.M. Arunachalam Technical Training Institute, Kulasekaram	Private
18.	Jeevajothy Institute of Technology, Muthappancode	Private

POLYTECHNICS

The names of Polytechnics in Kanniyakumari district are given in the table below:[166]

Sl. No.	*Name of the Polytechnic*	*Agency runs*
1.	Govt. Polytechnic, Nagercoil.	Government
2.	N.M.S. Kamarajar Polytechnic, Pazhavilai.	Private Aided
3.	Moderator Gnanadasan Polytechnic, Nagercoil.	Self–Financing Private
4.	Morning Star Polytechnic, Sungankadai.	Self–Financing Private
5.	Noorul Islam Polytechnic, Thiruvithankodu.	Self–Financing Private
6.	Kalaivanar N.S.K Polytechnic, Chenbakaraman-puthur.	Self–Financing Private

1. Government Polytechnic, Nagercoil : Polytechnics are the technical educational institutions, which offer diploma courses in various branches of engineering.[167] In Kanniyakumari district the first Polytechnic was started at Nagercoil by the Government, in the year 1959, with diploma courses in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineerings. Later, the diploma course in electronics was also added.

From 1959-60 to 1965-66, forty students were admitted in each course every year and from 1966-67 to 1987-88, in each diploma course, sixty students have been admitted.

The Polytechnic is an institution offering co-education. There is hostel for boys with an intake of sixty boys. There are adequate facilities of tool

room, lathe, workshop and library. There is a technical higher secondary school attached to the polytechnic.

The teaching staff of this polytechnic include one principal, two heads of departments, six lecturers, six associate lecturers, eighteen instructors and one physical education director. There are seven teachers in the technical higher secondary school attached to the polytechnic.

Extra–Curricular Activities : As in colleges and higher secondary schools, there are departmental students associations, social service leagues and sports and games activities in the polytechnic.

2. N.M.S. Kamaraj Polytechnic, Pazhavilai : The Nadar Mahajana Sangam (N.M.S) Kamaraj Polytechnic at Pazhavilai was started in September 1982.[168]

This polytechnic offers diploma courses in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering. The total number of students admitted every year in the first year of all the diploma courses was 120 from the beginning to 1985-86 and it was later increased to 180 from 1986-87.

This is an institution offering co-education and during 1986-87 the number of boys and girls studied in this polytechnic was as follows:—

	Boys	*Girls*
I Year of all the Diploma Courses	160	19
II Year of all the Diploma Courses	178	12
III Year of all the Diploma Courses	144	NIL

There are adequate tool, lathe and workshop facilities. The library of this polytechnic has a collection of about 3000 books and it is a subscriber to various technical journals.

Hostel facilities are available for 120 boys. The teaching staff of this institution consists of 27 members. The Civil Engineering department of this polytechnic maintains successful results every year since inception, i.e., not less than 90 percent every year. In the field of sports the students of this polytechnic won the first price successively for the years 1985,

1986 and 1986-87 in kabadi conducted among the polytechnics in state level.

3. Moderator Gnanadason Polytechnic, Nagercoil : Moderator Gnandasan Polytechnic, a self–financing institution, was started in the year 1983 with the diploma courses in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Electronics and Communication Engineering.[169]

This polytechnic was started for girls only and later, from the year 1987, boys also have been admitted. The details of the students admitted every year in the first year of diploma course are as follows:–

Year	*Civil Engineering*	*Electrical Engineering*	*Electronics and Communication Engineering*
1984-85	60	56	60
1985-86	55	9	35
1986-87	66	54	60

There are adequate facilities of library, workshop and lathe room to teach the engineering subjects in this polytechnic. Separate hostels are there for both boys and girls. There are 24 teachers in this polytechnic.

4. Noorul islam Polytechnic, Punkarai (Thiruvithankodu) : Noorul Islam Polytechnic at Punkarai near Thiruvithankodu was established as a self financing polytechnic in the year 1984-85. It is a co-education institution and offers diploma courses in the following branches of engineering[170]

1. Civil Engineering
2. Electrical and Electronics Engineering and
3. Automobile Engineering

In the first year of all these courses 94 boys and 13 girls in 1984-85, 154 boys and 11 girls in 1985-86 and 184 boys and 14 girls in 1986-87 had been admitted.

The infrastructural facilities such as library, workshop, lathe room are available in the polytechnic. The Hostel facilities are also available.

5. Morning star Polytechnic, Chunkankadai : The Morning star Polytechnic at Chunkankadai was established in the year 1984 as a self-financing polytechnic.[171] It is an institution offering co-education.

The polytechnic was started with the diploma courses in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electronics and Communication Engineering from the year 1986-87. A new diploma course in Computer Applications also has been offered

When started in 1984-85, the polytechnic admitted 162 boys and 18 girls in the first year of diploma course. The details about the course-wise students strength are given below:-

Name of the Course	*Years*			
	1985 - 86		*1980 - 88*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
Civil Engineering	54	7	61	2
Mechanical Engineering	62	-	70	-
Electronics and Communication Engineering	114	6	71	4
Computer Applications	-	-	53	7

The polytechnic is having infrastructural facilities such as workshop, library, etc. to teach the engineering subjects. There is a hostel for boys only where 110 boys have been admitted. The teaching staff of this institution consists of 40 members

6. Kalaivanar N.S.K. Polytechnic, Chenbakaramanpudhur: Kalaivanar N.S.K (N.S. Krishnan) polytechnic of Chenbakaramanpudhur was started in October 1985 by the Vellala Educational Trust as a self–financing institution.[172] The polytechnic temporarily functioned in a rental building, at Putheri, Nagercoil until the permanent building at Chenbakaramanputhur was completed on 5 September 1986.

The diploma courses offered in the polytechnic are as follows:—

1. Civil Engineering;
2. Mechanical Engineering; and
3. Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

This polytechnic is offering co-education and the total number of students admitted during 1985-86 was 70 boys and five girls and during 1986-87, 145 boys and six girls.

The accessories to teach engineering subjects such as fitting shop, welding shop, foundry shop, lathe workshop, etc., are there in the institution. The library of this polytechnic contains 2000 books on engineering and allied subjects.

It may not be out of place to mention that all of the self–financing polytechnics in the district were established in 1984-85 and thereafter the provision of infrastructral facilities are developing gradually and they would become full–fledged in course of time.

In the N.S.K. polytechnic, hostel facility is provided for ten boys only in a rented building and there is a proposal to build a hostel building. There are 16 teachers in the polytechnic.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES

Trades and duration : The duration of trades in the industrial training institutes is either two years or one year, depending upon the nature of the trades. The trades taught in various industrial training Institutes in the district and their duration are given below :[173]

Name of Trade	*Duration in Years*
1. Mechanic (Diesel)	2.
2. Mechanic Motor Vehicle	2
3. Welder (Gas and Electrical)	1
4. Wireman	2
5. Machinist	2
6. Fitter	2
7 Electro plater	2
8. Electrician	2
9. Draughtsman (Civil)	2
10. Draughtsman (Mechanical)	2
11. Mechanic (Radio and T.V.)	2
12. Carpenter	1

Non-Engineering Trades (Duration one year) :

1. Stenography
2. Secretarial practice
3. Hand Compositor
4. Dress Making

1. Governent Industrial Training Institute, Nagercoil : The Institute in the district was opened in the year 1964.[174] Right from the beginning, the following trades have been taught in this institution :

1. Draughtsman (Civil)
2. Electroplating
3. Fitter
4. Mechanic
5. Wireman
6. Welder
7. Turner

During 1986–87, in these trades, the following number of boys and girls were admitted :—

Name of Trade	*Total number of students*	
	Boys	*Girls*
1. Draughtsman (Civil)	9	9
2. Electroplating	17	-
3. Fitter	35	-
4. Mechanic (Motor Vehicles)	18	-
5. Wireman	35	-
6. Welder	26	-
7. Turner	N.A	-

In the civil draughtsman's course, girls also are admitted.

Tool room, workshop, library and hostel facilities are available. There are 31 teachers working in this institute.

2. S.M.R.V. Goverment, I.T.I for women, Nagercoil : Sri Mooalm Ramavarma Technical Institute[175] which has its history from the beginning of this century, the details of which are given in the relevent place of this chapter, was upgraded as a full-fledged industrial training institute for women in the year 1982. In the beginning, it imparted training in the trades of handloom weaving, powerloom weaving and advanced handloom weaving.

Now, the Industrial Training Institute offers the following Trades:-

1. Mechanic (Radio and Television);
2. Secretarial Practice;
3. Dress Making;
4. Hand Compositor;

Tool room, workshop and library facilities are available, though hostel facilities are yet to be provided. There are seven teachers including instructors, training officers, drawing master, physical training teacher and carpenter (technical).

In the all India trade test, more than 95 per cent students of this institution have come out with flying colours since the upgradation of this institute as an Industrial Training Institute in 1982.

3. Nirmala Institute of Technology, Manalikarai : The Nirmala Institute of Technology[176] was started on 17 August 1965 with the trades of fitter, welder, electrician, telecommunications, and radio mechanic. up to the year 1981, the institute admitted every year 18 trainees for fitter, electrician and radio mechanic and 13 trainees in welder and telecommunication. In the year 1981, it was permitted to admit every year 54 trainees in fitter trade, 36 trainees in electrician and 26 trainees in welder trade. The trades of radio-mechanism and telecommunication were dropped but in 1985 and four new trades i.e., mechanic (motor vehicle), draughtsman (civil), plumber, mechanic (diesel) were started. The institute also imparts training in typewriting (English and Tamil) lower and higher, shorthand and rural artisan programme.

In respect of the typewriting and shorthand courses and draughtsman (civil) trade, the insitute admits girls also, while other trades, are meant exclusively for boys.

The total number of students in each trade during 1986-87 was as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of Trade	Total number of students
1.	Fitter	108
2.	Electrician	72
3.	Mechanic (Motor Vehicle)	72
4.	Welder	26
5.	Draughtsman (Civil)	54
6.	Mechanic (Diesel)	18
7.	Plumber	18
8.	Rural Artisan Programme	14
9.	Typewriting and Shorthand	88

Every year, 90 to 100 per cent of the students of this institute come out successful in the final examinations. The facilities of tool–room, library, etc., are available though there is no hostel maintained by the institute. There are 25 teaching staff in this institute.

4. C.M.S. Industrial Training Institute, Azhaklapandlapuram : The Christian Mission Service industrial training institute at Azhakiapandiapuram was started in the year 1969. The trades taught in the institute are fitter, mechanic (motor vehicle) and electrician. Every year in each trade, 18 boys are admitted.[176]

Tool room, library and hostel facilities are available in this institute.

There are eight teachers besides a principal, foreman and a physical instructor.

5. St. Lawrence Technical Institute, Nagercoil : This technical institute came into existence in the year 1978 with the trade, mechanic (diesel). Later, trades in draughtsman course (civil), plumber and carpenter were started. In the draughtsman (civil) trades, girls are also admitted.

In each academic year, the following number of trainees are admitted for every course :

Sl. No	Name of Trade	Boys	Girls
1.	Mechanic (Diesel)	36	-
2.	Draughtsman (Civil)	42	18
3.	Plumber	17	-
4.	Carpentry	14	-

The infrastructural facilities such as tool room, workshop, library, etc., are available, though there is no hostel. The teaching staff include ten junior training officers, besides the principal.

6. Nava Bharath Industrial Training Institute, Kuzhithurai : Nava Bharath Industrial Training Institute at Kuzhithurai was started in the year 1982, with the trades in fitter and draughtsman (civil) and in 1986 mechanic (motor vehicle) trade was newly started.[177]

In the draughtsman (civil) trade, girls are also admitted. The following is the total strength of the students in each trade in 1986-87.

Sl. No.	Name of Trade	Total Boys	Number of Girls
1.	Fitter	77	-
2.	Draughtsman (Civil)	22	7
3.	Mechanic (Motor Vehicle)	NA	-

Tool room, workshop and hostel facilities are available and there are 12 teachers in the institute.

7. St.Matha Industrial Training Institute, Kuzhithurai : St. Matha Industrial Training Institute at Kuzhithurai was started in the year 1982 with two trades, (i.e.,) draughtsman civil and mechanic (motor vehicle). In the year 1983, fitter trade also was newly started.[178]

The total number of students admitted every year in each trade is 36. In draughtsman (civil) trade, girls are also admitted. At present, (1986-87) there are 196 boys and 20 girls undergoing training in the first and final years of the trades. Hostel facilities are available separately for boys and girls. Other infrastructural facilites are also available. There are 15 teachers besides the principal.

8. Kanniyakumai Diocese Church of South India Industrial Training Institute, Muttom : The Kanniyakumari Diocese C.S.I. I.T.I at Muttom was started in the year 1983 with only one trade (i.e.) draughtsman (mechanical). In the subsequent year, the draughtsman (civil) trade was started.

The industrial training institute offers only two courses and during 1986-87, in the first and second year of the draughtsman (mechanical) trade, there were 30 boys and two girls while in the draughtsman (civil) trade, there were 17 boys and 14 girls. There are no hostel facilities. There are ten teachers in the Institute.

9. Nesamony Transport Corporation Industrial Training Institute and Driver Training School, Nagercoil : The Nesamony Transport Corporation Industrial training institute and driver training school at Nagercoil were started in the year 1984. The Industrial Training Institute offers only one trade, mechanic (motor vehicle) in which 16 boys are admitted every year. In the driver training school, 23 boys are trained every year in heavy vehicle driving. There are five teachers in the I.T.I. including the principal and a part time instructor. In the driving school, there are 6 instructors.

10. J.E. Industrial Training Institute, Thuckalay : The J.E., I.T.i. at Thuckalay, started in the year 1984, offers the following trades:—[180 A]

1. Draughtsman(Civil),
2. Fitter and,
3. Mechanic (Motor Vehicle).

In the draughtsman (civil) trade, girls also are admitted. In each of these trades the I.T.I. admits 18 trainees every year. There are eleven teachers in the institute. Hostel, library and tool room facilities are available in the institute.

11. St. John Industrial Training Centre, Marthandam : The St.John I.T.C. at Marthandam was inaugurated in the year 1984 and the Trades offered in the institute are :-[181]

1) Draughtsman (Civil),
2) Fitter and,
3) Mechanic (Motor Vehicle).

This institute is offering co-education in respect of draughtsman (civil) trade. During 1986-1987, there were 14 boys and 3 girls in the draughtsman (civil) trade, 38 boys in the fitter and 40 boys in the mechanic (motor vechicle) trades. Hostel, library and tool room facilities are available. There are 17 teachers in the institute.

12. Friends Industrial Training Institute, Mathicode : Friends I.T.I at Mathicode was started in the year 1984. In this I.T.I., the following trades are offered :–[182]

1) Fitter

2) Draughtsman (Civil) and

3) Electrician

Every year, in the trades of fitter and draughtsman (civil), 36 trainees and in the electrician trade, 18 trainees are admitted. Girls are also provided admission in draughtsman (civil) trade. There is a library and a tool room. There is no hostel. The teaching staff consists of 15 members including the principal.

13. Bharath Engineering Training Centre, Nagercoil : Bharat Engineering Training Centre in Nagercoil was started in the year 1983. The trades taught in the I.T.I are mechanic motor vehicle and fitter. During 1986-87, there are 51 trainees in the mechanic (m.v.) trade and 30 trainees in fitter trade.[183]

A Tool room, laboratory and a library containing about 1000 books are there in the institute. There are five trade instructors, and one maths instructor in the institute.

14. Technical Institute of Engineering and Industrial Training Centre, Nagercoil : This institute was started in the year 1983 with the only trade of fitter. The trades of draughtsman (civil) and mechanic (motor vehicle) were started during the year 1984 and 1986 respectively.[183 A]

Initially eighteen trainees in fitter trade, fifteen trainees in draughtsman and 35 trainees in mechanic (motor vehicle) trades were admitted. During 1988, 53 trainees in fitter trade, 10 trainees in draughtsman (civil) trade and 35 trainees in mechanic (motor vehicle) trade were admitted. In the civil draughtsman course, girls are also admitted.

15. J.M. Industrial Training Institute, Colachel : This institution was started in year 1981- 82 with fitter trade admitting eighteen trainees in it. In 1981- 82 the welder trade with the annual intake of sixteen trainees was introduced. During 1984-85, civil draughtsman course was started in which sixteen trainees were admitted. During the year 1987-88, there were 36 trainees in fitter trade and sixteen trainees in civil draughtsman course. The welder trade was dropped during 1984-85.

16. Institute of Industrial Training, Munchirai : This Industrial Training Institute was started in the year 1981. The Trades offered in the institution are fitter, draughtsman (mechanical) and stenography.

17. A.M.M. Arunachalam Technical Training Institute, Kulasekaram: This institute was started in the year 1985. It offers training in the trade of draughtsman (civil).

18. Jeevajothy Institute of Technology, Muthappancode : This Institute was started in the year 1985. The trades offered are fitter and draughtsman (civil).

Commercial Schools :

The typewriting institutes, shorthand institutes book-keeping and accountancy institutes are the commercial schools.[184] The total number of approved commercial schools in the district from 1981 on wards is given below :

Year	*Total number of schools*
1981	36
1982	50
1983	41
1984	46
1985	50
1986	46
1987	41
1988	70

Besides the 70 commercial schools approved by the Government, there are many unapproved schools in the district.

Female Education : The women of Tamil Nadu, right from the ancient period, enjoy a fairly respectable status in the society. They are considered as the luminary of the home. A Purananuru poem calls the women as the "Light of the House"[185]

But, it cannot be said that all women have received education identical to the degree expected of men. Most of the women in rural areas have not even received primary education.[186] A few poetesses such as Avvaiyar, Kakkaippadiniyar, Nachellaiyar and others who flourished in the Sangam Age could not have represented the entire women folk of Tamil Nadu.

The spade work done in the district for the development of female education in the district has been described in the chapter under the caption Missionary Enterprises and Dawn of Western Education.

Facilities for Female Education in the District – Colleges for Women : In the district, there are four colleges run exclusively for girls besides 10 colleges where both boys, and girls are admitted (for details please see the Caption "Collegate Education"). The Mother Therasa Women University, Kodaikkanal, has opened a study centre in the district which at present functions in the campus of the Sivanthi Adithanar College, Nagercoil.[187] The aim of establishing the study centre is to extend the research activities and social welfare schemes for the benefit and welfare of women. The research assistants of this study centre are engaged in collecting the data on the problems of dowry system prevalent in the district.

Secondary Education : In the district, there are eight higher secondary schools exclusively for girls of which two are run by the Government, and six by the aided private managements.

Besides these girls schools, in most of the higher secondary schools in the district, girls are also admitted. The following is the list of the girls higher secondary schools in the district.

Government Girls Higher Secondary Schools:—

1. Kavimony Desigavinayagam Pillai Government Girls Higher Secondary and Teacher Training Institute, Nagercoil.
2. Government Girls Higher Secondary Schools, Marthandam.

Aided Girls Higher Secondary Schools:-

1. St. Joseph's Convent Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
2. Duthie Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.

3. Little Flower Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.
4. LMS Girls Higher Secondary School, Neyyoor.
5. LMS Girls Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.
6. Sree Devi Girls Higher Secondary School, Kollencode.

There are 3 government high schools and 14 aided high schools in the district exclusively for girls and besides these girls are admitted in all other high schools along with boys, except in a very few which are exclusively meant for boys.

In these high and higher secondary schools upto the middle school (Std. VIII) level boys also are admitted.

The Girls High Schools in the District :

Government High Schools:-

1. SLB Government Girls High School, Nagercoil.
2. Government Girls High School, Eraniel.
3. Government Girls High School, Kadiappattinam.

Aided Girls High Schools:-

1. St. Joseph's Girls High School, Azhagappapuram.
2. Home Church Girls High School, Nagercoil.
3. LMS Girls High School, Santhapuram.
4. Amala Convent Girls High School, Thuckalay.
5. Infant Jesus Girls High School, Mulagumoodu.
6. St. John Vianney's Girls High School, Palliady.
7. St. Ursula's Girls High School, Kulasekaram.
8. Carmel Girls High School, Manalikkarai.
9. Aided Girls High School, Vanikudy.
10. Providence Girls High School, Ritapuram.
11. St. Aloysius Girls High School, Velliavillai
12. St. Antony's Girls High School, Thuncathuvilai.
13. Vasudeva Vilasam (CSI) Girls High School, Irenipuram.
14. St. Antony's Girls High School, En-Puthenthurai.

In the revenue district level, all these girls schools are under the control of the Inspectresss of Girls Schools, Nagercoil.[188]

Prior to 1961, all the girls schools in the district were under the control of the Inspectress of Girls Schools, Madurai circle and when the Tirunelveli circle was formed in the year 1961 the Kanniyakumari district also came under the jurisdiction of the Inspectress of Girls Schools, Tirunelveli circle.[189] In the year 1982, the entire Kanniyakumari district was formed into one circle and a new post of Inspectress of Girls Schools was created for the district, which position continues in 1988. The total number of teachers and students in all the girls schools in the district from the year 1956 is given in the table form.

Gone are the days when women did not come forward to take up technical education. But now women pursue technical education in all the branches. In most of the polytechnics and I.T.I.s in the district women undergo education in the diploma courses in civil engineering, electrical and electronics engineering, electronics and communication engineering, computer science and in the trades of draughtsman (civil), handloom and powerloom weavings etc. (more details are given under the caption 'Technical Education' of this chapter).

The present Duthie Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil, LMS Girls Higher Secondary School, Neyyoor and St. Joseph Convent Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil were established in the year 1919, 1928 and 1910 respectively and they were the first institutions established in the district, exclusively for girls.

One Parimala, a student of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School stood first in the State in the S.S.L.C. public examinations conducted in the year 1969. One Shanthi from the same school stood second in the State level and first in the district level in the higher secondary examination conducted during the year 1984.

TABLE

Girls High Schools

Year	*Total No. of*	*TEACHERS*			*PUPILS*		
(1)	*Schools (2)*	*Men (3)*	*Women (4)*	*Total (5)*	*Boys (6)*	*Girls (7)*	*Total (8)*
1956-57	13	42	165	207	811	3492	4303
1957-58	13	43	174	217	974	4045	5019
1958-59	13	37	187	224	864	4199	5063

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1959-60	14	32	204	236	873	4649	5522
1960-61	14	30	216	246	967	5184	6151
1961-62	14	31	222	253	927	5145	6072
1962-63	14	31	222	253	927	5145	6072
1963-64	15	34	290	324	1055	6263	7320
1964-65	16	32	334	366	817	6442	7259
1965-66	16	27	331	358	709	6715	7424
1966-67	16	27	337	364	974	8165	9139
1967-68	16	28	334	362	783	8165	9139
1968-69	17	37	340	377	875	8098	8923
1969-70	17	38	343	381	868	8076	8944
1970-71	17	41	357	398	890	8090	8980
1971-72	17	26	373	399	900	8191	9091
1972-73	17	-	397	397	581	8451	9032
1973-74	17	-	409	409	928	8732	9660
1974-75	17	-	411	411	475	8614	9089
1975-76	17	-	426	426	676	8877	9553
1976-77	17	-	425	425	571	8882	9453
1977-78	20	-	513	513	1410	9242	11252
1978-79	14*	-	244	224	1208	3925	5133
1979-80	12*	-	246	246	1289	4031	5320
1980-81	13*	-	258	258	1332	4283	5615
1981-82	13*	-	263	263	1308	4575	5883
1982-83	14*	-	283	283	1439	6432	7871
1983-84	17	-	327	327	1883	6564	8407
1984-85	17	-	328	328	1483	6860	8343
1985-86	17	-	342	342	1516	7344	8660
1986-87	17	-	355	355	1447	7568	9015

* The fall in the number of schools was due to the conversion of some high schools into higher secondary schools, as the later was introduced for the first time during 1978-79.

TABLE

Girls Higher Secondary Schools

Year	Total No. of Schools	TEACHERS			PUPILS		
		Men	Women	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1978-79	6	-	277	227	160	6661	6821
1979-80	8	2	296	298	237	7467	7704
1980-81	8	2	343	345	233	8076	8309
1981-82	8	1	374	375	270	8805	9035
1982-83	8	2	382	384	187	8496	863
1983-84	8	4	386	396	237	8863	9100
1984-85	8	3	395	398	215	9473	968
1985-86	8	2	399	402	223	9994	10217
1986-87	8	2	404	406	228	9783	10011

ADULT EDUCATION : The Adult Education Programmes of the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu are launched to remove illiteracy particularly among the rural folk in the country. For the implementation of the programmes, a separate Department of Non-Formal and Adult Education was created. The head of the department at the state level is the Director of Non-Formal and Adult Education. In the district level, there are non-formal and adult education officers to implement the programme and they are assisted by the project officers. There are also supervisors to assist the project officer in correctly identifying the illiterate area, to open centres and to watch the progress of the learners in the centres. Besides, the government programmes there are also voluntary agencies to lit the light of education among the illiterates.

Rural Functional Literacy Project : This project is sponsored by the Government of India and implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The financial commitments of the projects is completely borne by the Government of India. In Kanniyakumari district the project was implemented from March 1984, in a phased manner.[182] In the first phase, the scheme was implemented in four panchayat union areas of Agasthiwaram, Rajakkamangalam, Kurunthenkodu and Killiyoor. In these four panchayat union areas, 300 adult education centres were opened and in the centres, education was imparted exclusively for women. In the first phase, the number of beneficiaries in all the centres was 10,198 of which 5472 were Adi-Dravidar women.

The second phase was started in April 1985. In this phase, in addition to the four panchayat union areas already covered, Munchira panchayat union area was also included. In all these five panchayat union areas 300 adult education centres for women were started and the total number of women benefited was 9140 out of which 3342 were Adi-Dravidars.

The third phase of the Rural Functional Literacy Programme in the same five panchayat union areas was started in April 1986. There were 9000 learners in the 300 centres of which 2667 were Adi- Dravidars and 27 were scheduled tribes.

The fourth phase of the Rural Functional Literacy Programme was started in the year 1987 and was extended to the panchayat unions of Thovalai, Thuckalay and Thiruvattar. In all these three unions, 300 centres were conducted. A total number of 10500 persons were imparted education of which 2369 were adi dravidars. In the fifth phase of the programme started in 1988, three hundred centres were opened in these three panchayat union areas and in addition, the programme was extended to the municipal areas of Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai also. In the fifth phase also, the total centres opened were 300 and the learners were 10,500.

Development Programmes and Adult Education : Adult Education Programme is linked with various developmental programme such as family planning and child welfare, integrated rural development programme, training of youth for self-employment Programme (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children Programme. Some objectives of this programmes are, improvement of the position of women in regard to the social and economic status, amelioration of the conditions of the weaker sections of the community including the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and physically handicapped, conservation of energy resources, particularly, the renewable sources of energy conservation of the environment including programme of tree plantation, social forestry and social conservation. These programmes, when implemented, indirectly to educate the beneficiaries also.

Mass LIteracy Programmes : Functioned under the rural funcional project of the district, mass literacy programmes also are implemented. Besides 3000 rural functional literacy project centres, 200 continuing education centres are also functioning in the district from July 1986. In these centres, reading materials and books are supplied to improve the habit of self-learning. These centres are mostly useful for those who have

attained literacy through the adult education centres where reading and writing are taught.

Rural Functional Literacy Project Expenditure in the District : The total annual cost of the project (300 centres) per year was Rs.10,48,300 in the first year and Rs.9,78,300 per annum in the subsequent years.

For the running of the scheme 300 part-time animators the minimum qualification of whom are prescribed as a pass in VIII std. are appointed and they have to identify the illiterate adults in their locality and enroll them as learners in the centre animated by him or her as the case may be. The animators have to conduct classes for about two hours a day. They are supplied with black boards, chalks, dusterclothes, hurricane lanterns, necessary registers and forms and writing materials, such as slates, note-books, pencils and reading materials, viz. text books etc. to be used in the centres. As the classes are to be conducted in the rest time of both the animators and the learners, they are mostly conducted during nights and so the animators are supplied with hurricane lanterns. Ten supervisors, each incharge of 30 centres, are appointed to monitor and evaluate the improvement among the learners and to supervise the functioning of the centres.

The syllabus for the adult educatin is framed in such a way to suit the adult learners. The primer and pre-primer books which are supplied by the director are used in the centres. On completion of the course in the centres, a learner would be able to read letters, pamphlet, notices and bus name boards and to check the pass-book, to fill up the money order forms etc., Classes are conducted by discussion methods and lectures are also given. Documentary films are also screened in the centres.

Post Literacy and Follow-up Programme under Rural Functional Literacy Project : In order to improve the literacy of the neo- literates (i.e.) the literates who earned literacy through the adult education centres, 200 post literacy centres were opened in the district in July 1986. In these centres, 975 men and 6805 women were enrolled of whom 284 men and 1972 women belonged to scheduled castes. These 200 post literacy centres were maintained by the continuing educaton workers and an asst. project officer. In these centres, books, periodical, newspapers and other reading materials are provided with a view to inculcate the habit of reading among the learners. There are also mobile units of this centres to distribute the materials at the doors of the beneficiaries.

The following table will show the details of expenditure incurred for running these post-literacy centres in the district :

	Description		Expenditure
1.	Initial purchase of books	..	Rs.4000
2.	Replacement of books and purchase of periodicals	..	Rs.2000
3.	Purchase of almirah	..	Rs.1000
4.	Travelling Allowance	..	Rs.2000

Janashikshan Nilayam : Janashikshan Nilayam or People Learning Centres are meant for those who have acquired learning through the adult education centres. This scheme is fully sponsored by the Government of India. Such centres are started in villages where the population is more than 5000.

These centres are manned by the 'preraks' or supervisors. A tape recorder and a bi-cycle also are provided for each centre. Every month, a sum of Rs.150 is spent in each centre, for buying newspapers and periodicals. Sports and other cultural activities of the people also are encouraged through the centres. For each centre, balls, chess boards and other sports materials also are suppiled. The preraks help the people to read the newspapers and periodicals and also educate them in general knowledge by playing audio cassettes in the tape recorder supplied to each centres. Besides running the Janashikshan Nilayam, the preraks also have to visit the rural functional literacy centres within their jurisdiction to ensure the proper functioning of them. The preraks are paid Rs.200/- per mensem for manning the Janashikshan Nilayam and Rs.450/- per mensem for supervising the rural functional lilterarcy centres. The preraks also conduct debates, symposiums and tournaments in the villages to encourage the learners in the centres to involve them in such activities.

This Janashikshan centres opened in the villages are permanent. The preraks act as a link between the people and various Government authourities, as they explain the government authorities concerned about the problems and the need of the people and get them done to the people.

In Kanniyakumari district, Janashikshan Nilayams have been opened in the following places on 2nd October 1988 and they are functioning successfully:—

Thovalai Panchayat Union :-

1. Azhakiapandiapuram
2. Thovalai
3. Kadukkarai
4. Aruwanallur
5. Boothapandi
6. Thazakkudi
7. Chenbagaramanputhur
8. Aralvoimozhi

Padhmanabhapuram Municipal Area :-

1. Padhmanabhapuram
2. Puliyoorkurichi

Thuckalay Panchayat Union Area :-

1. Eraniel
2. Thikkanamkodu
3. Thiruvidhankodu
4. Maruthukurichi
5. Molachai
6. Paraikodu
7. Kattuthurai

Kuzhithurai Municipal Area :-

1. Kuzhithurai
2. Marthandam

THIRUVATTAR PANCHAYAT UNION AREA :-

1. Chithirankodu
2. Poovankodu
3. Kannur
4. Kallupalm
5. Puthankodu
6. Kulasekaram

Besides the Centrally sponsored porgrammes, the state government also is playing a major role to remove illiteracy among the people. In 1988, state Adult Education Centres were also opened in the district as detailed below and the illiterate adults were enrolled and educated.

Sl.No.	*Area*	*Total number of centres opened*
1.	Nagercoil Municipal area	100
2.	Kurunthenkodu Panchayat Union area	100

In these 200 centres, 7000 illiterate adults received education during the year 1988 of which 767 were adi dravidar and 70 belonged to scheduled tribes.

Voluntary Agencies : Besides the central scheme of rural functional literacy porject, voluntary agencies also are running adult education centres with the aid of the central government grant, in this district.

During 1986-87, there were four such agencies in the district, which imparted education to 804 men and 8364 women of whom 216 men and 1247 women belonged to scheduled castes and four men and twelve women belonged to scheduled tribes.

Besides these aided voluntary agencies, the volunteers of national service schemes, national adult education programme of various colleges, and higher secondary schools in the district run the adult education centres. During the year 1987-88, the volunteers of national service scheme of the colleges and higher secondary schools in the district conducted adult education centres, in which 5900 adults were benefitted. Among the beneficiaries, 290 belonged to adi dravidar and 308 scheduled tribes.

EDUCATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED : Apart from the academic schools and colleges and technical institution,there are also special schools for the education of the blind and deaf pupils in the district. They are [183]

1. Church of South India School for the Deaf, Kottaram;
2. Church of South India School for the Blind, Irenipuram; and
3. Government School for the Blind, Nagercoil.

The former two schools are run by aided missions and the latter school is run by the government.

Church of South India High school for the Deaf, Kottaram : The C.S.I. School for the deaf at Kottaram was inaugurated on 29 June 1966.[184] The total number of students underwent education in the school every year since its inauguration is as follows :

Year (1)	*Total number of students (2)*
1966-67	26
1967-68	22
1968-69	28
1969-70	27
1970-71	26
1971-72	16
1972-73	21
1973-74	21
1974-75	36
1975-76	31
1976-77	31
1977-78	22
1978-79	26
1979-80	30
1980-81	24
1981-82	22
1982-83	36
1983-84	19
1984-85	27
1985-86	30
1986-87	29
1987-88	28

It is an institution offering co-education having provided classes upto X std, and there are also separate hostel for boys and girls. There are two graduate teachers, 14 secondary grade teachers and one sewing mistress

serving in the institution for whom Government pay salary by way of grant. Besides the teachers, the management has appointed one sewing mistress, 3 secondary grade teachers and two physical education teachers and they are paid by the management from out of its own funds.

Besides the government grant, the school receives aid from the World Vision of India and from West German based Christoppel Blinden Mission.

The cost of maintaining the hostel attached to the school is borne by various donor organisations and managements. The special concession extended to the hostelers is that they are not to pay for their stay in the hostel.

Church of South India School for the Blind, Irenipuram : The C.S.I. school for the blind at Irenipuram was started in August 1970, though the department of social welfare granted recognition only in the year 1974-75.[187] The government sanctioned grant for five posts of secondary grade teachers. The main objective of the institution is to give education, training and rehabilitation of the blind pupils. The pupils in the school are given periodical free medical check up by the ophthalmologists of the C.S.I. Hospital, Neyyoor. Besides regular education, integrated education programme for visually handicapped children was started in the year 1984-85 and expanded.

The pupils of the school participated in the fourth National Sports Meet 1986 and fifth National Sports Meet 1987 at New Delhi and won awards.

The following teaching aids are provided in the school, to teach the blind pupils :

1. Braillee slates	4
2. Tailor's frame (Aluminium)	52
3. Tailor's frame (plastic)	7
4. Mathematic slate	10
5. Thermoform	1
6. Duplicator	1
7. Braillers	5
8. Braille kits	42
9. Pocket brailler	3

10. Braille watch	1
11.Graph slate	5
12. Colour slate	6
13. Geometry slate	2
14. Braille slate stand	10

The above appliances and teaching aids have been provided by the Christoffel Blinden Mission, a West German philanthropic organisation free of coast. In this school both boys and girls are imparted instructions. There are separate free hostels for boys and girls.

The total number of pupils studied in this school every year, since its establishment, is given below :

Year (1)	Total numbers of pupils. (2)
1970-71	18
1971-72	27
1972-73	33
1973-74	39
1974-75	44
1975-76	46
1976-77	48
1977-78	66
1978-79	63
1979-80	56
1980-81	55
1981-82	53
1982-83	63
1983-84	63
1984-85	62
1985-86	58
1986-87	60
1987-88	55
1988-89	59

This is a middle school, imparting instruction upto standard VII. Besides the instruction, a vocational section also is there, in which weaving is taught to the blind. This section has been functioning since 1983-84, and the total number of pupils received training every year since then is given below :

Year	*Trainees*
1983-84	18
1984-85	18
1985-86	18
1986-87	17
1987-88	19
1988-89	19

Besides the headmistress, there are seven secondary grade teachers, one hostel warden, one physical education teacher, one craft teacher, one weaving master, one part time tailorling instructor, one part-time cane work and Carpentry instructor and one palm leaf work instructress in the teaching side. The department of social welfare of the Tamil Nadu Government sanctions grant every year by way of salary to five of the secondary grade teachers. The remaining teachers and the instructors are paid by the management out of the aid it receives from the native and foreign philanthrophic organisations.

Government School for the Blind, Nagercoil : The Department of Education[186] of the Government of Tamil Nadu opened the school for the blind at Nagercoil on 22 September 1975 and later in 1980, the school was handed over to the Department of Social Welfare. This is a primary school having classes upto fifth std. There is a proposal to upgrade this school as a middle school.

The teaching aids used to teach the children in the school are, Braille writing frame, Arithmatic Board, Braille typewriter, Braille books and science articles supplied by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Some voluntary organisations also had donated some aids to the school such as tape-recorder, radio and furniture. There is a free hostel in the school. The inmates are supplied with uniform dresses free of cost.

The total number of pupils studied in the school every year, since its establishment is given below :

Year	*Total number of pupils*
1975-76	13
1976-77	3

Year	Total number of pupils
1977-78	3
1978-79	4
1979-80	3
1980-81	1
1981-82	4
1982-83	6
1983-84	16
1984-85	2
1985-86	7
1986-87	13
1988-89	18

There are three secondary grade teachers and a music teacher, besides the headmaster, in the school.

BACKWARD CLASSES, SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES EDUCATION : Gone are the days, when education was meant only for a privileged few. Later, though pursuit of education became open to all, there were many handicaps to prevent the economically and socially weaker section of the people to pursue their education.

It is also one of the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The Article 46 of the Constitution runs as follows :

> "The State shall promote with special care, the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the *Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes* and shall protect them from social injustice and all form of exploitation".

Hence, the Government in order to remove the hardships, implemented many schemes such as opening of free hostels and residential schools, awarding them scholarships, extending them fee concession in colleges and reserving them seats in the educational institutions etc.,

The department of Adi-Dravida and tribal welfare maintains three residential schools, and fourteen free hostels, of which one is for college boys and the remaining for high and higher secondary school for girls and boys. Of the 12 hostels for the high school boys and girls, six are for boys, four for girls and two for tribal girls.

The department of backward classes welfare runs 13 hostels in the district of which three are for college girls, eight are for high and higher secondary school girls and two for high and higher secondary school boys.

The details of the location of these hostels, number of pupils and other welfare measures to impart education to the backward classes and scheduled castes and tribes are described in the chapter on *Other Social Services* of the Gazetteer.

Library Movement in the district : Library is a store house of knowledge. There is a maximum in Tamil that 'let us not dwell in a village where there is no temple but the maxim can as well be recast thus ; "let us not dwell in a village, where there are no temple and library". Libraries are quite essential to improve the literary and general knowledge of the people. The Public Libraries Act, 1948 of the Government of Tamil Nadu was extended to the district only in 1982, and consequently District Central Library and branch libraries were opened.[187]

Previous to the formation of the district in 1956 and even after that upto 1982, the libraries in the district were receiving only grants from the then Travancore Government, and after merger, from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The nature and tune of the grant was sanctioned on the advice of the State Library Gradation Committee appointed by the Government. This position continued upto 1982, when the Public Libraries Act, 1948 was extended to the district in 1982. Now, the grants to the libraries are sanctioned by the Government on the recommendation of the District Library Officer.

Kavimony Nool Nilayam (District Central Library) : In memory of Kavimony Desiga Vinayagam Pillai, a patriotic poet of this century who belonged to the district, a library was established and run by the Kavimony Memorial Committee. The Committee handed over the library to the Government of Tamil Nadu along with the buildings and collection of books on 10 October 1966 for the effective management of the library. It was functioning as a Government Library and later, when the Public Libraries Act was extended to the district in 1982, this library was converted as the District Central Library with effect from 15 July 1982. This library has an assortment of 19280 books. This library is manned by the following staff :

1. Librarian Grade I	1
2. Librarian Grade II	2
3. Librarian Grade III	3

Branch Libraries : After the formation of the District Central Library many branch libraries also were opened in the district. The details are as follows:

Location of the branch library	*Taluk*	*Date of opening*	*Total number of books*	*Grade*
1. Colachel	Kalkulam	1.11.1982	7768	C
2. Aralvoimozhi	Thovalai	12.11.1984	7760	C
3. Manavaakurichi	Kalkulam	22.11.1984	6171	C
4. Edaikodu	Vilavankodu	17.12.1984	5650	D
5. Agasthiswaram	Agasthiswaram	17.12.1984	4986	D
6. Azhakappapuram	"	25.02.1987	1543	D
7. Kallukkottam	"	27.11.1987	1459	D

In all these libraries including the district central library as in 1988, there have been 5734 members who are eligible to borrow books. Besides them, there are regular readers who visit the libararies for reading various subjects. During the year 1986-87, all these libraries in the district were visited by 1,77,691 readers.

There are two delivery stations functioning in Midalam and Ammandivilai where books from the nearby Branch Libraries are brought to the stations and lent to the members.

Besides these libraries which are fully maintained by the Department of Public Libraries, there are also libraries and reading rooms in the district run by the local bodies, such as municipalities, panchayat unions and town and village panchayats and other service organisations. Some of them are receiving grants from the Government. The Following is the list of such libraries functioing in the District :

GOVERNMENT GRANT LIBRARIES

S.No. (1)	*Name of the Library* (2)	*Location* (3)
THOVALAI TALUK :		
1.	Agasthiar Nool Nilayam	Kosavanputhuoor
2.	Kasthuri Bai Memorial Library	Navalcadu
3.	Gandhi Nool Nilayam	Erachakulam

(1)	(2)	(3)
4.	Sreemoolam Silver Jubilee Library	Thazhakudi
5.	Chenpaka Vilas Library	Chenpakaramanputhoor
6.	Ramavinayagar Chuvadichelai	Kannanputhoor
7.	Tamilar Nool Nilayam	Veeranarayanamangalam
8.	Vivekabivirdhi Library	Thirupathisaram
9.	Valibar Sangam Library & Jeeva Nool Nilayam	Bhoothapandy
AGASTHISWARAM TALUK :		
10.	Yadhava Valibar Sangam	Kurandy, Theroor
11.	V.O. Chidambaranar Library	Varioor.
12.	Puthagalayam & Reading Room	Kulasekharapuram
13.	Bharathi Valibhar Sangam	Nallor
14.	Gramma Munetra Sangam Library	Rajakkamangalam
15.	Desiya Library & Reading Room	Perunchavilai
16.	Azad Library & Reading room	Kottar, Nagercoil
17.	Thiruvallur Valibhar Sangam Library	Vadasery
18.	Annai Kasthuribai Memorial Library & Reading room	Thamarakulam (North)
19.	Kavimani Memorial Library & Reading room	Theroor
20.	Sri. Shumughananda Library & Reading Room	Marungoor
21.	S.M.R. V. Library	Vadasery, Nagercoil.
KALKULAM TALUK :		
22.	Desa Seva Sangam Library & Reading Room	Keralapuram
23.	Sri Krishna Vilasam Library & Reading Room	Paraseri

(1)	(2)	(3)
THUCKALAY TALUK :		
24.	Sri Simha Raksha Vinayagar Devasthanam Library	Ereniel
VILAVANCODE TALUK :		
25.	Rajakesava Dhas Library & Reading room	Kunnathoor
26.	St. Antony's Gromodarana Sangam Library	Vallavilai
27.	Sri Vidhiya Vilasani Library	Arumanai
28.	Mahatma Library & Reading room	Methukummal

NON GRANT LIBRARIES

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of the Library* (2)	*Location* (3)
THOVALAI TALUK :		
1.	Samatharma Nool Nilayam	Andi Thoppu
2.	Thiruvalluvar Library	Veravanallur
3.	Krishihar Sangam Library	Arumanalloor
4.	Valibar Sangam and Public Library	Derisanamcope
5.	Mahatma Gandhi Library	Kadukkarai
6.	Jawahar Library	Thovalai
7.	Puthagalayam & Reading Room	Veeramarthandarputhoor.
8.	Bharathi Nool Nilayam	Vellamadam
9.	Sri Chithrai Vilas Library	Aralvaimozhi
10.	Nethaji Valibar Sangam	Kalluputhoor
11.	Bharathi Valibar Sangam	Villavankadu
AGASTHISWARAM TALUK :		
12.	Gandhiji Grama Munnerta Kazhagam	Sankaraputhur
13.	St. Mary's Library and Reading room	Vanchimarthandanallur
14.	Kirupalani Library	Karuppukottai

(1)	(2)	(3)
15.	St. Aloysious Library & Reading room	Azhagappapuram
16.	Kulasekaravinayagar Library	Agasthiswaram
17.	Gnanapuram Library	Melachandiyde
18.	Jayanandha Library	Kanimadam
19.	Srichitara Library	Othayal Vilai
20.	Soundra Pandian Memorial Library	South Kundal
21.	Then Thilaka Arivakam Library	Achen kulam
22.	Kamaraj Padippakam & Reading room	Vijayangiri
23.	Morning Star Library & Reading room	South Thamarakulam
24.	Thiruvallur Library & Reading room	Puliyoor
25.	Sanjeevi Library	Paramarthalingapuram
26.	Valibhar Sangam Library	Marthandapuram
27.	Jawahar Library	Parakkai
28.	Krishnamoni Library & Reading room	Melakrishnaputhur
29.	Kumaran Nool Nilayam	Vallankumaravilai
30.	Indian Kudiarasu Memorial Library	Sarkalvilai
31.	Bharathi Padippakam	Manavilai
32.	Kalaimagal Padippagam	Karmaniekapuram
33.	Benizkar Library & Reading room	Rajavoor
34.	Elangomanthan Library	Parvathipuram
35.	Viswakarma Thozhilalar Sangam Library & Reading room	Vadasery
36.	Thiru-vi-ka valibhar Sangam library	Vadasery
37.	Veeramamunivar Library	Vadasery
38.	Ramavarmapuram club	Nagercoil

(1)	(2)	(3)
39.	Ramavarmapuram club	Nagercoil
40.	Kattabommen Library	Nagercoil
41.	Valibar sangam Library	Surankudy North
42.	Sri Chitra Jothi Nool Nilayam	Suchindram
43.	Gandhiji Reading room	South Car Street, Suchindram
44.	Viswakarma Tholiar Sangam Library	Nagercoil
45.	Thilakarvalibar sangam & Reading room	Nagercoil
46.	Jawhar Gramma Abhiviruthi Sangam Library	South Surenkudy
47.	Mahadesai Hindi Library	Ramavarmapuram, Nagercoi
48.	Pavalar Mantram Padippakam	Edalakudi, Nagercoil.
49.	V.O. Chidambaranar Elangaar Nathan Kuzham.	Vadasery
50.	Manonmoniam Sundaranar Library	Vadaseri
51.	Karpagavinayagar Library	Ramanathapuram
52.	Swamy Vivekananda Library Reading room	Cap Comorin
KALKULAM TALUK :		
53.	Jawhar Vilas Library and Reading room	Malancode
54.	Muslim Young Mans Association	Colaochel
55.	Arulanda Vilas Library &	Thickanamcode
56.	Grama Seva Sangam Library & Reading room.	Saral
57.	Sarvodaya Public Library & Reading room	Manavalakurichi
58.	Valluvar Library & Reading Room	Ammandivilai, Nagercoil.

(1)	(2)	(3)
59.	Narayana Perumal Nadar Memorial Library	Ammandivilai.
60.	Jawahar Library	Karavilai
61.	Sahakarana Library & Reading room	Maruvoorkonam
62.	Babuji Reading Room	Mundavilai,
63.	Nethaji Memorial Library	Thirunanthikkarai
64.	Hindu Ilaignar Iyakkam	Colachel
65.	Jai Bharat Library & Reading room	Ereniel Konam
66.	Desa Bandu Library & Reading room	Manakkarai
67.	Desiya Library & Reading room	Aloor
68.	Sree Vivekananda Library	Nettancode
69.	Jaihind Library	Kandan Vilai
70.	Deiva Vinayakar Devasthanam Library and Reading room	Thalakulam
71.	Yuvajana Samajam Library	Aramanam
72.	K.Velu Thambi Memorial Library	Thiruvattar
73.	Grammeya Library & Reading Room	Attoor
74.	Public Library	Vellukeeri
75.	Brama Vidhyalaya Library & Reading room	Kulasekaram
76.	Municipal Library	Colachel
77.	Dewan Nanoo Pillay Memorial Library	Neyyoor West
78.	U.M.M.A. Library & Reading room	Thiruvithancode
79.	Lalitha Vilasam Library	Padmanabhapuram
80.	Municipal Library and Reading room	Thuckalay
81.	Grameya Library & Reading room	Ponmanai
82.	The Central Library and Reading room	Cendali Code.

(1)	(2)	(3)
THUCKALAY TALUK :		
83.	St. Aloysious Library and Reading room	Mulugumoodu
84.	Marthana Vilas Library and Reading room	Eraniel Fort
85.	Kesavavilasam Library	Manalikarai
86.	Nethaji Library	Mangalam
VILAVANCODE TALUK :		
87.	Bharathi Nool Nilayam	Puthukadai
88.	Gandhi Memorial Library	Manjalumoodu
89.	Azad Library	Kallikkavilai
90.	Mahatma Reading Room	Killiyoor
91.	Sri Balasubramanian Library	Amsi
92.	Devi Prazha Library and Reading room	Venkanji
93.	Gramodarana Library	S.T. Manead
94.	S.T. Nicholas Youngmens Association Library	
95.	Brothers Union Library	Phiruthivipuram
96.	Union Library and Reading room	Chemangala
97.	Gramo dharana Sangam Library	Maruthancode
98.	Kasthuribai Memorial Library	Paravoor
99.	Grama Seva Sangam Library	Pacode
100.	Gandhi Library and Reading room	Unnamalaikadai
101.	Sri Chithrolayam Library	Arumanai
102.	Sri Pattam Memorial Library	Malaicode
103.	R.A.V. Library	Painkulum
104.	Subhoda yani Library and Reading room	Parthivapuram
105.	Thirumala Maha Devar Vilasam Library	Munchirai

(1)	(2)	(3)
106.	Mother Kasthuri Bai Memorial Library	Vayakalloor
107.	Grameya Library	Kanjampuram
108.	Gremodarana Sangam	Kollencode
109.	Mahatmaji Library	Pilacode.

MUSEUMS : The Department of Museum has opened a District Museum in Kanniyakumari in 1991. In the Padhmanabhapuram Palace, which is still under the control of the Government of Kerala, a museum is maintained where the objects relating to the palace and the rulers of Venad Dyansty have been preserved. The museum of antiquities of this palace was opened in the year 1940. The following are the objects exhibited in the museum :[189]

Description	*Total Number*
1. Stone Sculptures	118
2. Wooden Images	13
3. Copper Plate records	11 sets
4. Coins	396
5. Historical Paintings	17
6. Weapons and implements	131
7. Stone Inscriptions	67

The objects exhibited in the museum belong to the medieval or modern period. At an average of 400 vistors visit the palace daily of whom nearly 300 are general public, 50 are students and 60 are foreigners. The authorities charge an entrance fee of Rs. 2 for adults and Re.1 for children. Every object of the museum has a history behind it, which is described to the vistiors by the guides of the palace, appointed by the museum exclusively for the purpose of explaining the importance of the various parts of the palace and also the objects preserved in them. It is a palace every one has to visit to enrich their knowledge in history and the antiquity besides there will be a feast to the eyes in the form intricate designs architecture and the aesthetic sense of the Venad kings which are reflected in the palace.

Besides Padhmanabhapuram palace, there are also ancient ports and temples such as Vattakkotti (ciruclar fort) Udhayagiri fort, Thiruparappu temple, Jain Sculptures at Chitheral etc., which are the protected

monuments maintained by the Deparatment of Archaeology. In these places also, there are objects which are worth to be housed in a museums, as they have history of the rulers and the ruled. The other details of these places are dealt with in detail in the chapter on 'Places of Interest' of this Gazetteer.

Cultural, Literary and Scientific Societies and Periodicals : In the district, there are no societies of state or district level fame exclusively for the promotion of culture, science and literacy. However, there are voluntary associations, one of the objectives of which is either promotion of literacy, science or culture. The details are covered in the chapter on 'Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisation' of the Gazetteer.

In colleges and polytechnics, there are however student associations and fine arts clubs to promote the cultural and scientific awareness among the pupils.[190]

Though there are no widely circulated periodicals on the subjects of science, culture and literature, published from the district, every year all the 15 colleges, polytechnics and some higher secondary schools of the district, bring out magazines containing articles of the budding writers (i.e.) students and teachers of the respective institutions. Details of the news papers and periodicals circulated in the district are covered in the chapter on "Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations" of the Gazetteer.

Literary Luminaries of the district :[191] The Contribution of the district for the growth and development of Tamil language and literature is unique. The district has produced eminent men of letters who should be remembered so long as the Tamil language exist.

Sheik Thampi Pavalar : Sheik Thampi Pavalar was a doyen among the Tamil scholars of his period. He was an authority on *'Kamba Ramayanam'*. He was also an ideal orator who could scintilate the minds of the audience. He is popularly known as *'Sadavadani'* which means one who concentrates on many things at a moment. He wrote many books and more important among them are, '*Thirukkottaru Pathirthupathu Anthathi* and *Thirunagoor Thiruvanthathi*. He also wrote a commentary on *Seerappuranam*.

His cheif disciple was Sasthankutty Pillai of Thengamputhur who also was a notable Tamil scholar. Vidwan Sadasivam Pillai, the author of the Cheranadum Senthamizhum is one of the disciples of Sasthankutti Pillai.

K.N. Sivaraja Pillai : K.N. Sivaraja Pillai, an erudite scholar in Tamil hailed from the district. He was the first Director of the Tamil Research Centre established at Madras in the year 1927. He also edited a monthly journal in Tamil called *Nanjil Nesan*. This journal was published from Trivandrum. His contribution was not only for the Tamil literature but also for history. His book '*The Chronology of Early Tamils*' was published by the Madras University in 1932. This book was an outcome of his extensive research in the Tamil literature and it throws light on the political history of the sangam period. No doubt, he is a pioneer in the field of Tamil and historical research.

K.N. Kumaresa Pillai : K. N. Kumaresa Pillai, brother of K.N. Sivaraja Pillai was an exponent of *Kamba Ramayanam*. He delivered discourses in *Kamba Ramayanam* followed by instrumental music.

P. Chidambaram Pillai : By publishing the *Mudaliar Palm Leaf Manuscripts* in the year 1930, P. Chidambaram Pillai rendered a valuable service to the historians. These *Mudaliar Palm Leaf Manuscripts* are the main sources for writing the modern history of Kanniyakumari district. He was also a writer in English. He wrote two books *Temple Entry* and *Aryans and Dravidians*. He also edited a Tamil periodical *Tamilan*.

Arumuga Navalar: Thondarkulam Maha Vidwan Armugha Navalar as he was popularly known was an ardent theist. He had founded at Nagercoil a religious organisation named *'Thiruneri Thondarkulam'* *(திருநெறி தொண்டர் குழாம்)* in the year 1928. This organisation had branches in many parts of Tamil Nadu. Through this organisation, *Thevaram Thriuvasagam* and *Thiruppugazh* were preached to the public. His magnum opus was the '*Hindu Matha Vilakkam*' *(இந்து மத விளக்கம்)* This work describes the basic principles of Hindu philosophy. He also edited a monthly '*Thondon*'. *(தொண்டன்)*

Kavimoni Desikavinayakam Pillai : Kavimony Desikavinayakam Pillai, born in 1876 at Theroor was a distinguished poet. His invaluable services to the growth of the modern Tamil verses deserve special mention. He was not only a poet, but also an archaeologist and historian. *Kandalur Salai* is a reputed research work of Kavimony, which gives a

different interpretation of Rajaraja Chola's conquest of Kerala. According to him, the word '*Aruthu*' is but a shortened form of '*Varai aruthu*'. Based on this, he gave a different meaning for the phrase. The king was pleased to make an endowment and fix the number of kalams (i.e.) literally, the number of dinner plates and hence the number of persons to be fed in the institution of Kandalur. Kavimony's verdict thus created a milestone in the field of Archaeology. *Marumakkal Vali Manmiyam* is one of his poetical collection and it is an excellent satire in modern Tamil literature. He satirically attacked on the *Marumakkal Vali Maniyum* a system existed then in Nanjilnadu among a particular community, by which matriarchal system of inheritance was followed. His satire was so powerful and the system was legally abolished in the year 1926. *Malarum 'Malayum*, is another collection of his poems, which contains simple, but thought provoking verses.

Jeevanandam : Jeevanandam, popularly known as "Jeeva" was not only a revolutionary politician and freedom fighter but also a pen-man. *Kalaiyum Ilakkiyamum*' (Art and Literature) *Bharathi Vali* (The way of Bharathi) *Mathamum Manitha Valamum* (Religion and human resources) are his works. He was imprisoned for having written a book on *Bhagath Singh*, a revolutionary freedom fighter from Punjab, who was hanged by the British Government.

Dr. K.K. Pillay : Dr. K.K. Pillay, one of the eminent professors of history in India of his times and also an authority on the history of South India belonged to Aloor of Kanniyakumari District. His monograph on *Sucindram Temple* is the product of an extensive research, which earned him the degree of the Doctor of Letters from the Madras University. There were and are very few scholars, who were awarded with that degree. He dedicated this work to Kavimony Desikavinayakam Pillai. He is the author of an authoritative political and cultural history of South India in Tamil and English. He has written so many books on the History of India and South India.

Other eminent scholars : Dr. B.Natarajan, an internationally reputed Economist as well as a Tamil Scholar, Panditha Rama Subramaniya Navalar of Nagercoil, the author of various works like *Arulmani Malai, Nanjilnadu* etc. and K. Appathurai the author of the outstanding works like *'Kumari Kandam'* '*Thennattu Porkalangal*' *(தென்னாட்டுப் போர்க்களங்கள்)*)- Battle fields of South India also belonging to the district. Tamil perum pulavar Abraham Arulappanar, the author of

'*Tholkappiya Yappu* and Commentaries on *Thiruvasagam* and *Thirumurugatrupadai* also was hailed from the district.

The district also had produced three international authorities on Tamil Linguistics and they are Dr. V.I. Subramaniyam and Dr. S. Agasthialingam (the first and second Vice-Chancellors of Tamil University, Thanjavur) and Dr. Muthushanmuganar.

There are also popular novelists and story writers, hailed from the district. To mention a few, Sundara Ramasamy, Neela Padhmanabhan, Ponneelan, Nanjilnadan, N.A Velayutham. Pa. Perumal, Hepzhiba Jesudasan, Isacc Arumani Rajan and others are well known to the readers of Tamil Nadu. Dr. S. Padmanabhan, a journalist and writer who belongs to the district has attempted to bring forth many forgotten events relating to the history of the District. This is not an exhaustive list of the scholars from the district. There are also a number of profound scholars, poets and writers whose fames are mostly like a light lit inside a pot.

There were also veteran men who toiled for the promotion of Tamil theatre. Among them late T.K.S. Brothers and N.S. Krishnan need special mention. The dramas of T.K. Shanmugam on Raja Raja Cholan and Avvaiyar are worth mentioning. He also wrote a book on '*The History of Tamil Drama*'.

N.S. Krishnan was another stalwart, who, playing his roles in dramas and cinemas as commedian, infused morality in the minds of audience.

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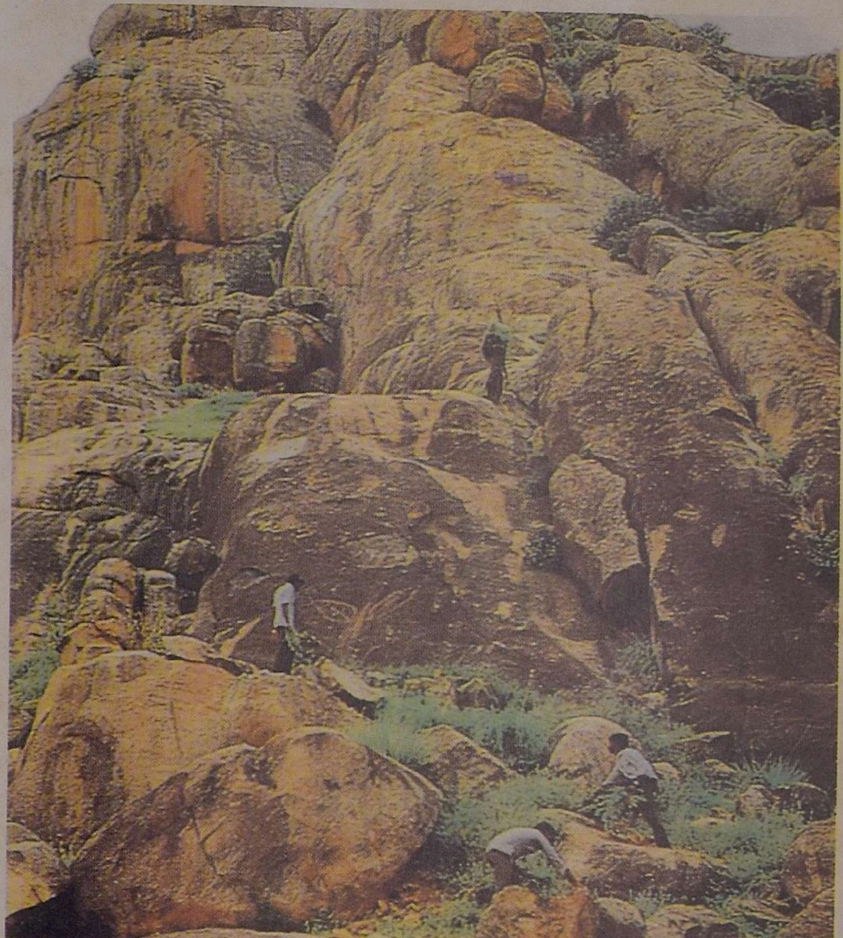


Young Scientists' expedition at
Maruthavamalai

CHAPTER – 16

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health and Medical facilities in Early Times : Medicine is as old as that of human being. Archaeological and Literary sources indicate the existence of the Medical Profession and Practice even in the 3 Millennium before Christ, in India. The works of Charaka, Shusruta, and Vagbhata were considered as ancient Indian Medical Classics. Kautilya's Arthasastra, Asoka's Edicts. Chola inscriptions, and other historical records afford indispensable evidences of medical relief in India. Tolkappiam, Tirukkural and other Sangam literatures bear some fruitful references on ancient system of medicine in Tamil Nadu. The herbal medicines otherwise known as Siddha Medicines were prevalent even before Tolkappier.[1]

The Kanniyakumari district has contributed much in the field of Medicine. The district is endowed by nature with several hills and mountains with rich herbs of medicinal value and minerals. Maruthuvamalai, a hill in the district located near Kanniyakumari, literally means medicinal hill, is referred to by Therapeutacs (Buddha Bikshus) who belonged to the period of Emperor Asoka, as having medical and spiritual heritage. According to the tradition that the hill was a piece of the mountain Gandha Madhana dropped here while the mountain was carried by Hanuman to Lanka during the epic war between Rama and Ravana. Rare medicinal herbs are available here in abundance.[2]

Sage Agasthiya, the first grammarian of good old Tamil was also the foremost of the Siddhars. (The practitioners of herbal medicines). This sage is believed to have lived in this land's end and there is also a village by name Agastheeswaram near Maruthuvamalai which owes its name to the dwarf sage. In this village, there is a temple dedicated to Agastheesvaramudaiyar which is believed to have been consecrated by Agasthiya himself. Besides medicine and grammar, Agasthiya was also adept in Varma Sastra. General palm leaf records like 'Varmani' and Varma Sastra were written by Agasthiya. Even today, this healing art of varmam treatment is taught in Kanniyakumari in the Guru-Sishya tradition, and treatment is also done by elders who are quite conversant with this method of treatment by applying tamil medicines in required proportion. This method of treatment has proved successful in several cases.

Kanniyakumari played an important role in the international medical field, even before the Christian era. In Charaka Samhita, we come across a meeting. So to say, the first International Medical Conference was held in 1000 B.C. on the slopes of the Great Himalayas, where 53 sages took part in the deliberations of devising ways and means to bring out Trisutra (three kinds of knowledge pretaining to Indian Medical Science) Viz., Hetu Sutra (Etimology), Viyadhi Sutra[1] (Pathology) and Aushada Sutra (Pharmacology). A chapter of the book Samhita gives a list of participants of the World Meet. This Meet was presided by Bharadvaja, and the Sage Agasthiya, represented South India. Agasthiya delivered a key note address on Astanga (Octopartite) which includes General Medicine (Kaya) Peadiatrics (Bala) Hysteria (Graha) ENT (Urthunga) Surgery (Salya) Toxicology (Visha) and treatment for Virility (Resagine).

From the period of Agasthiya to the present day, the siddha system of treatment has been preserved carefully by the people of Kanniyakumari. The growth of allopathic system of medicine in Kanniyakumari district is also an interesting one. The early Protestant Christian Missionaries were considered pioneer in the field of allopathic medicine of the district. By establishing a hospital at Nagercoil, the London Mission Society (LMS) known as Church of South India (CSI) had laid the foundation for the modern allopathic system of practice in the district as early as 1838. The district owes much of its present position and importance, to the efforts of the Missionaries in the field of medicine. The allopathic system, introduced by the British was adopted as a State system of relief in due course.

The development of public health services in Kanniyakumari district began with the organisation of Vaccination Services in Travancore State. Vaccination was introduced as a State policy in 1813. Vaccination was done by a Head Vaccinator and a few Vaccinators, till the end of 1864. They functioned under the direct orders of the Durbar Physician. In 1865-66, a separate department was set up for vaccination and Dr. Pulney Andy, a native of Madras was appointed as Superintendent of Vaccination, who popularised vaccination among the masses and also worked to ward off caste prejudices.[3]

In the early stages, it was easy for higher castes to get vaccinated. The depressed castes were not vaccinated to a considerable extent, probably due to the caste prejudice of the Vaccinators, who were usually recruited from the higher castes. In order to overcome this difficulty, two pulayar youths were chosen and given training at London Medical School in

1869-70 for appointment as Vaccinators. This was considered not only revolutionary but as a great achievement also, of that period. Apart from caste prejudice, women of higher castes of Hindu religion and also muslim ladies refused to come forward for vaccination. Besides, considerable difficulty was experienced in vaccinating the hill tribes also.

From the beginning, the European system of medicine had to meet organised opposition of the indigenous school of treatment. Despite this opposition, the London Missionary Society established a hospital at Neyyoor in 1830 and began its services.[4] Another milestone in the medical history of Kanniyakumari district was the establishment of the Salvation Army's "Catherine Booth Hospital", (1892) at Vadasery in Nagercoil.

Subsequently, the successive Durbar Physicians, devised ways and means to popularise the different systems of medicine among the people. They followed a policy of giving training to sufficient number of local citizens in the European School of Medicine. It is worth-mentioning that the doctors attached to the civil hospitals used microscope, stetheoscope, clinical thermameter, chemical re-agents and other appliances for diagnosis of diseases.

With a view to encourage the practice of inducting medicine by private agencies, a system of sanctioning regular medical aids to them was started by the Government in 1895-1896. In Kanniyakumari district, the CSI Hospital, Neyyoor received Rs. 1200 per annum, as maintenance grant.[5] The smaller vaidyasalas were allowed a honorarium of Rs.35 per mensem. The Durbar Physician supervised and controlled the institutions which were functioning on European methods.

On the other hand, the native system of treatment otherwise known as Ashtangaridayam was revived with the active co-operation of the Government. Apart from the recognised vaidyas, there were hundreds of unrecognised native vaidyas practising throughout the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State. The well-to-do classes had a good faith in native medicines. Though many of the vaidyas were quacks, the popular faith in them remained steady. The common prescriptions in the native system mainly consisted of electuaries (lahyams) decoctions, oil for external use and also strict diet regulation.[6]

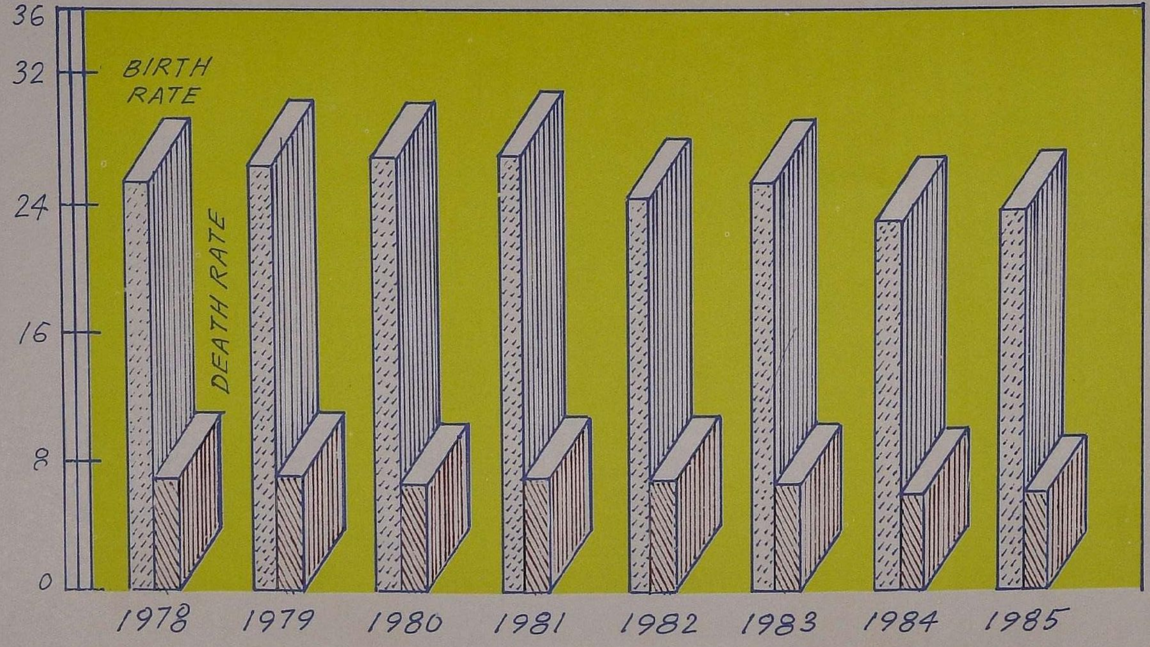
Another native system i.e., Chintamani, which formed part of ayurvedic science was also prevalent in the district. This system describes the

means of ascertaining diseases by the examination of the pulse. Since this system needed more care in the preparation of the mineral drugs, the number of patients was very limited.

Vital Statistics : General Standard of Helath and Causes for Mortality : Till 1893-94 A.D., there was no regular agency for the registration of vital statistics in the district. The village officers were expected to keep a register of births and deaths known as 'Janana maranakkanakku' which was neither informative nor exhaustive. With the passing of the Towns Improvement and Conservancy Regulation II of 1893-94, the registration of births and deaths was started in the towns of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppy and Kottayam, Nagercoil of the Travancore State under the control of the Towns Improvement Committee appointed by the Government in pursuance of the above regulation. In August 1895, a scheme for the registration of births and deaths throughout the erstwhile Travancore State on an uniform basis was formulated by the Government. Subsequently, a department under the name and sytle "Sanitary Department" was established under the control of Sanitary Commissioner who was also in-charge of registration of births and deaths and sanitation of the Travancore State except the towns brought under the operation of the Towns Improvement Regulation and Vaccination.[7] For the effective implementation of sanitary schemes, the State was divided into 4 districts viz., Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Vaikkam, (Present Kerala State). Thovala, Agasthiswaram, Eraniel, Kalkulam and vilavancode lying in present Kanniyakumari district formed part of Trivandrum district. An Inspector was appointed for each district, whose duty was to check vital statistics throughout the district, and to attend to the sanitation also in the district, where the Towns Improvement Regulation was not in force. He also supervised the vaccination work and rendered medical aid at the doors of the villagers.

The registration of vital statistics was conducted in the proverti cutchery by a Proverti Accountant (ordinarily a Nalveli Accountant) specially charged with the work. Necessary information was furnished to him daily by a 'Viruthikaran' specially deputed for the purpose for each pakuthy. In the taulks of Agastheeswaram and Thovala, the village watchman collected and furnished information of births and deaths. The Vaccinators also periodically checked and verified the entries, made in the registers. (With regard to the Town Improvement Committees, statistics were collected by the staff under them and transmitted to the Sanitary

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE (1978 to 1985)



Commissioner). There was neither the village system of house distribution for rural areas nor compulsory notification of births and deaths for urban areas.

In Kanniyakumari district, births and deaths were registered under the Travancore-Cochin Registration Act of 1953. The registration was made compulsory, because in several cases it was noticed that the births and deaths were not recorded properly. District Registrar offices, statistical units and local bodies were involved in the matter of registering vital statistics.

After the merger of the district with Tamil Nadu, the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine is the Statutory Chief Registrar of births and deaths in the State under the newly enacted Births and Deaths Act of 1977. As per the Civil Registration, the following was the birth and death rate of Kanniyakumari district.[8]

Year	*Birth rate*	*Death rate*
1978	25.43	07.00
1979	26.58	07.02
1980	27.07	06.85
1981	26.94	07.44
1982	24.45	06.96
1983	25.39	06.78
1984	22.98	06.17
1985	23.72	06.27
1986	22.50	06.08
1987	21.10	05.20

The birth and death registration for the rural areas is done by the Health Assistant of the medical department, and such registration of vital occurrences works well than in other district both quantitatively and qualitatively. The district has been selected as the best in the State for registration work, by the Central Government twice i.e., in 1981 and 1986. When compared to other districts of the State, the birth rate in Kanniyakumari district is last but one (lowest rate) next to Coimbatore and the Nilgiris which have the birth rate as 15.6. The death rate also last, but one next to Dharmapuri which has the death rate as 6/1000 population. The average marriage age for male and female in the district is 27.4 and 23 respectively, which is the highest average in the State, which is also one of the reasons for lowest birth rate.

Causes for mortality in the year 1978 to 1985 are given below:

Cause	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Typhoid fever	48	19	4	21	4	3	10	7
Other fevers	434	437	390	432	390	214	151	123
Diarrhoea	186	282	81	78	81	20	31	27
Dysentery	341	192	365	439	365	128	68	97
Tuberculosis	350	293	179	307	179	290	249	301
Other diseases	1369	1346	1362	1466	1362	1441	1527	1212
Jaundice	97	87	69	77	69	57	152	32
Cancer	231	211	281	264	281	250	205	263
Heart diseases	692	863	981	1113	981	788	751	937
Diabetes	124	131	128	141	128	188	335	182
Paralysis	1300	1337	1358	1498	1358	916	957	914

Cause	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Tetanus	89	103	78	75	78	38	30	35
Diphtheria	4	4	9	6	9	1	13	-
Suicide	19	18	61	21	61	59	32	67
Accident	62	58	71	45	71	104	54	144
Food poisoning	2	-	2	1	2	-	52	-
Malnutrition	302	242	181	213	181	43	44	33
Ulcer	228	156	239	233	239	293	305	263
Rabies	7	12	9	9	9	7	10	3
Snake bite	16	16	21	22	21	21	14	16
Killed by wild beasts	14	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Maternal death	46	61	47	55	47	40	29	34
All other causes	3668	4029	3886	4116	4180	5060	4837	4912

There was no death due to malaria, small pox, guineaworm and plague in the district, after the year 1985 and this was due to the introduction of the intensive eradication programmes as well as the publicity campaigns undertaken, educating the people as to the cause and preventive measures to be taken. There are however, a few causes of death due to some diseases, occurred in 1986 and 1987. Causes of mortality in these years are given below :

Name of the disease	*1986* Attack	Death	*1987* Attack	Death
1. Chickenpox	1146	4	999	Nil
2. Cholera	1	1	–	–
3. Measles	375	–	211	–
4. Rabies	2	2	–	–
5. Infective hypotetis	3	1	–	–
6. Tuberculosis	179	88	147	89
7. Malaria	31	–	10	–
8. Polio	3	–	1	–
9. Diphtheria	4	Nil	–	–
10. Whooping cough	3	–	–	–

Sample Registration Scheme : This scheme obtains reliable estimates of vital rates and growth rate of population at State and National level separately, and also for rural and urban areas.[10] The Scheme is implemented in rural parts by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and at urban parts by the Director of Census Operations. The rural system consists of 150 units while the urban system consists of 100 units. The scheme, however, does not provide reliable estimates of birth and death ratios at district level. In Kanniyakumari district, five sample registration units are functioning at Paloor, Mancode, Vallancode, Vilavancode and Attoor.

Model Registration Scheme : The main objective of this scheme is to ascertain correct cause of death. As in Civil Registration System the Village Administrative Officers are the Registrars. In this system, the

headquarter village of the PHC is the unit. In the State, the Model Registration System is functioning in 64 Primary Health Centres, and in Kanniyakumari district, the PHC Arudesam is selected for the implementation of the scheme. In this scheme, the Field Agent is the Health Inspector of the Primary Health Centre, who registers all residential births and deaths occurred in the area. The Medical Officer cross checks 10 per cent (or) at least one death per month. This scheme is helpful to ascertain the correct cause of death.

Diseases common to the District : Cholera had been the most serious epidemic in the district for a long-time. The densely populated coastal villages in the taluks of Kalkulam and Vilavancode appear to have been the favourite breeding grounds for this disease. There was a turbulant attack of the disease in 1869. It was followed by series of attacks in 1881, 1883,1890 and 1894 and great was the havoc it wrought, sweeping away sometimes even the whole family in its current. By the establishment of a separate department in 1895, this disease was effectively eradicated. The densely packed system of house distribution, the scarcity of water supply, the uncleanliness among the poor labour folk, the total absence of drainage and other sanitary arrangements were the predominant cause for the outbreak of cholera.

The other diseases that caused severe mortality in the district were small-pox, fevers, dysentry and diarrhoea. The position has altogether changed now. The development of preventive medicines, the popularisation of health education and above all the introduction of various diseases eradication and immunisation programmes have somewhat reduced the disease menace today. Anyhow, upper respiratory infections, diarrhoea, worm infections, filaria, skin diseases, trophical eosinophilia seem to be common in the district.[11] Important eradication programmes implemented in the district are briefed below :

Tuberculosis Control Programme : Tuberculosis continues to be a major health problem in developing countries like India. This disease can develop both in young and old and can be seen both in urban as well as rural areas. It is estimated that about 1.8 per cent of the population is suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and among them about one fourth are infectious cases. In order to tackle this problem effectively, the National Tuberculosis Control Programme was evolved during the III plan Period, and it is being followed by Tamil Nadu, since then. District Tuberculosis centres have been established, in all the districts in the State for the effective control of Tuberculosis.

The National Tuberculosis Control Programme is not a vertical programme. with separate infrastructure, but an integrated programme, utilising the existing health and medical facilities. Free Tuberculosis medical treatment for Tuberculosis is done in all the primary helath centres, hospitals and dispensaries. (both government and voluntary organisations). Besides Tuberculosis sanatoria, district Tuberculosis centres, and chest clinics provide specialist services for the patients.

This Programme is implemented (1) by primary prevention through BCG Vaccination and (2) by secondary prevention by treating all the identified TB patients, especially the sputum positive cases. BCG vaccination is given in the district by trained public health personnel, in the village itself. This vaccine protects the children by organising tissue and defends to fight against the Tubercle Bacillus.

Tuberculosis is detected by screening the symptomatics who attend the District Tuberculosis centre, primary health centre, hospitals and dispensaries or referred by private medical practitioners and voluntary organisation for sputum examination, for Acid Fast Bacioli (AFB) or for X-ray (chest) examination. The detected cases are put on continuous treatment for one year in a government medical institution which is located nearer to the place of the patients residence. The defaulters are motivated by means of a letter about their failure to collect drugs or by contacting them in their houses. Under the new 20 point programme, a target is fixed since, 1982- 83, to treat new patients. This has facilitated detection of Tuberculosis patients in each village and their prompt treatment.[12] In Kanniyakumari district, this programme was started during 1965, and it is being implemented in 49 peripheral health institutions, which include all the government hospitals, government dispensaries, primary health centres and co-ordinating private nursing homes of the district.[13]

A BCG team attached to this programme has covered the district thrice and it is now on its fourth round. Intensive Tuberculosis case finding camps' are being organised in the district since August 1985, by the District Tuberculosis Centre with the active co-operation of the voluntary institutions. During 1986, twelve such camps have been organised in the district, in which 4335 persons were examined. Manteux tests and sputum examinations have been done on the spot. BCG vaccination has also been administered to the eligible children in these camps.

During 1986, as many as 9066 new x-rays and 13210 new sputum examinations were done in the district. As regards this programme, the number of x-rays (MMR) taken was 97770, since 1978 to 1987. The new sputum examinations done in the district were 72770 the new pulmonary TB Cases detected 32475, and new extra pulmonary TB case detected were 3215. For the above period, 524639 BCG vaccinations were administered in the district.[14]

Leprosy Control Programme : Tamil Nadu scrupulously follows the pattern of National Leprosy Eradication Programme viz., case detection, case holding and health education. Special steps are taken to identify inactive cases and release them from control, if they satisfy the criteria for discharge. As regards Kanniyakumari district, the whole population is almost covered under National Leprosy Eradication Programme. The present prevalance rate is 7.5 per thousand.[15] At present the following medical institutions extend treatment for leprosy patients.[16]

1. Government Leprosy Control Unit, Thuckalai
2. Government Leprosy Control Unit, Vilavancode
3. Survey, Education and Treatment Unit attached to the Primary Health Centre, Kuttukuzhi
4. Survey, Education and Treatment Unit attached to the Government Hospital, Boothapandi
5. Urban Leprosy Centre attached to the Government Head Quarters Hospital-Nagercoil
6. Urban Leprosy Centre attached to the Government Hospital-Padmanabhapuram
7. Survey, Education and Treatment Unit attached to Government Hospital-Colachel
8. Leprosy Control Unit - Nagercoil

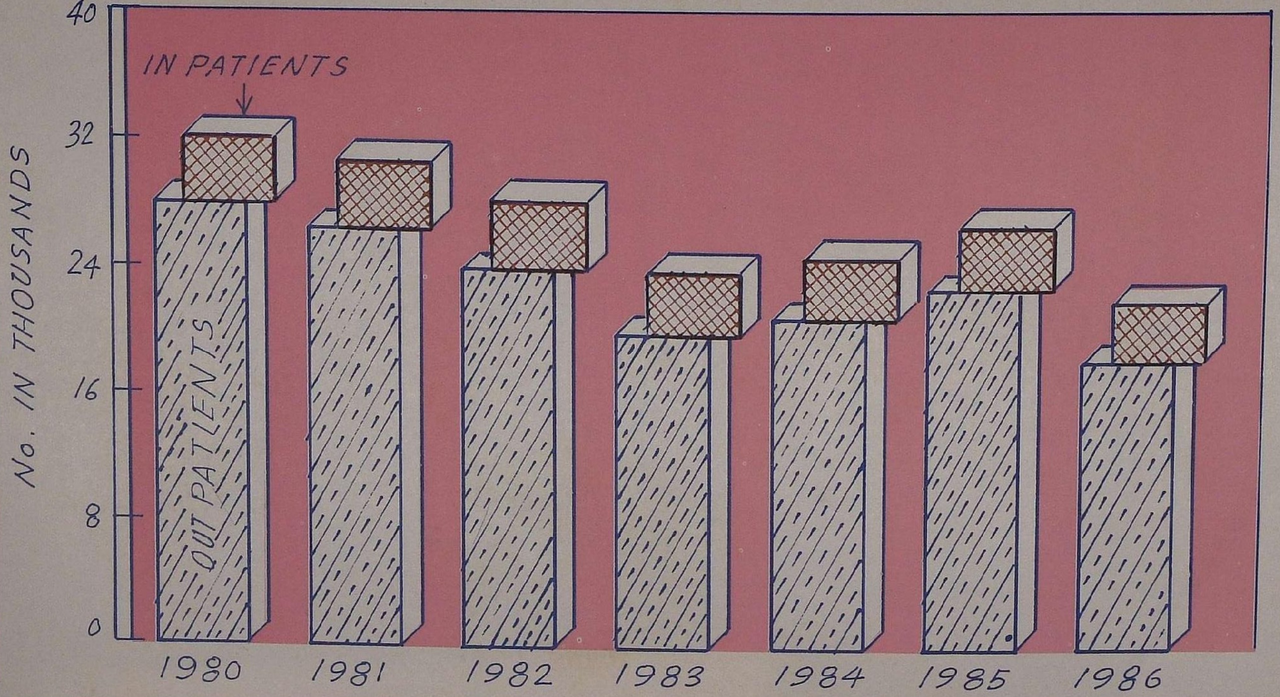
Since August 1986, the District Leprosy Office is functioning independently. There are innumerable hamlets in remote areas and hence it is very difficult to identify leprosy cases without omission. However, the leprosy team in the district has, so far, detected 6762 cases upto 1986. Out of which, 5500 cases have been given due treatment. In Tamil Nadu, North Arcot district, has been chosen for Multi-Drug Therapy Programme. So, this programme has yet to be implemented in Kanniyakumari district. However, there is a proposal to implement the

programme in all the districts in a phased manner. The leprosy patients have been regularly issued Dapsone tablets. Two Health Educators attached to the District Leprosy Office periodically visit the villages and educate the mass. One temporary hospitalization ward with 20 beds is functioning in government head quarters hospital, Nagercoil. The patients who are referred by other institutions, are being admitted here, and given treatment. Charles Pease Memorial Hospital, a private leprosy hospital maintained by the Kanniyakumari Medical Mission at Colachel also gives treatment to leprosy patients.

The details of cases detected and treatment given under the Leprosy Eradication Programme in the district are given below :[17]

Details	Year										
	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88 (upto Oct. 87)
Known cases detected	1120	830	626	446	769	655	627	628	661	425	469
Cases registered	293	274	189	250	328	267	385	266	361	254	326
Cases cured	64	142	71	78	147	372	353	187	127	169	346
Total number of cases under treatment (including the cases detected prior to1978)	3205	3612	3985	4236	4625	4770	4858	5110	5505	5606	5485
Population surveyed :	174665	164765	139698	145954	153949	117069	170714	180714	114503	91787	409514
Population examined :	143070	130083	119177	114503	120364	139000	133166	133254	81619	67452	357815
Cases detected :	408	274	157	88	85	121	131	138	102	70	207
School Survey											
Students on roll :	48524	48295	49786	63492	267691	249094	306822	227498	215001	232723	–
Students examined :	45981	46042	46552	60231	250866	234253	281375	223960	192408	207285	–
Cases detected :	142	137	63	54	253	179	233	183	278	168	–
Health Contact											
Total :	16327	18152	19896	20217	22191	21691	10599	10944	23938	28895	27612
Examined :	14872	16742	17433	18310	21215	16654	4847	4986	19935	14569	12779
Turned as patients :	75	70	52	99	49	34	26	17	47	18	29

NUMBER OF T.B. PATIENTS TREATED IN GOVT. TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL - ACHARIPALLAM
[1980 TO 1986]



National Malaria Eradication Programme in the district : National Malaria Control Programme was in vogue in this district since 1953-54 to 1957-58. During 1958-59, National Malaria Eradication Programme was launched from the year 1977, modified plan of operation of NMEP is being implemented in this district. As per the modified plan of operation the primary health centres at the block level constitute the basic unit of anti-malarial operations. Under modified plan of operation the following activities are being carried out.

1. Active case detection by fortnightly visits to the house holds by basic health staff in the rural areas.
2. Passive case detection through hospitals, dispensaries and primary health centres and voluntary organisations includii g fever treatment depots.
3. Examination of the collected blood smears through active case and passive case detection for malåria parasite at the PHC laboratory.
4. Confirmed malaria cases are being treated with 3 days radical treatment.
5. Contact and mass blood survey are carried out for every positive cases.
6. Residual spray operations are also carried out for every malaria cases.

The Kanniyakumari district is comprised of 22 primary health centres. Each PHC consists of multi-purpose health workers and technicians. To Supervise the above said personnel, malaria inspectors are at district health office. The District Malaria Officer who is under the control of the District Health Officer will be overall charge of the malaria programme in the district. 114 multi-purpose health workers, 19 basic health inspectors, 5 malaria inspectors and one district malaria officer are available in the district to carry out the NMEP activities. The incidence of malaria recorded in this district since 1984 to 1988 is tabulated below:[18]

Year	*Total blood smears collected & examined*	*Positive cases*	*Falciparum cases*	*Death due to malaria*
1984	138046	92	2	Nil
1985	112298	48	1	"
1986	189849	53	1	"

Year	*Total blood smears collected & examined*	*Positive cases*	*Falciparum cases*	*Death due to malaria*
1987	226948	28	2	"
1988 up to July	108638	887	NIL	"

The surveillance operations are being toned up in the district and the situation of malaria incidence is being closely watched.

National Filaria Control Programme : National Filaria Control Programme has been implemented in Kanniyakumari district since 1985 with one control unit at Nagercoil and 3 night clinics at Padmanabhapuram, Colachel, and Kuzhithurai. The control unit is functioning in Nagercoil town carrying out anti- larval measures against the mosquitoes, which are responsible for the transmission of filariasis. Besides anti-larval measures, night blood survey is also being carried out to detect the microfilarial carriers. Thus detected microfilarial cases are given treatment with DEC tablets to eliminate the reservoir of infection. Mosquito larvicidal oil, baytex and abate are used as larvicides. Besides one control unit, the night clinics mentioned above also carry out night blood survey and detect the microfilarial carriers and give treatment with DEC tablets. Detailed year war examination of persons and detection of microfilaria carriers etc. are furnished in the annexure.[19] (further areas have been surveyed in Kanniyakumari district).

National Filaria Control Programme-Nagercoil Unit.

Sl. no. (1)	*Year* (2)	*Persons examined* (3)	*Positive with m.f.* (4)	*M.F rate* (5)	*Positive with disease* (6)	*Disease rate* (7)
1.	1985	6801	265	2.3	215	1.7
2.	1986	59975	1164	2.0	643	1.1
3.	1987	53088	1044	1.8	385	0.6
4.	1988	30773	490	1.5	157	0.5
Up to July 88						

As regards this district,the pre-control micro filaria rate was 6 percent. The cases of filariasis have been in decline in the places where the National Filaria Control Programme is in implementation. In addition to the NFCP, anti-filarial measures are being implemented in Nagercoil, Eraniel, Tiruvithamcode, Pudukkadi, Vilavancode, Karingal and Kurunthencode. Two third of the actual expenditure towards the programme is met by the local bodies while the remaining one third by means of government grant.

Public Hospitals and Dispensaries. In the Administration Report of Travancore State for the year 1885, there is a mention about four hospitals, which were treating patients according to Eurpoean Medical Science. They had been located at Neyyattinkara, Parasala, (Present Kerala State) Padmanabhapuram, and Nagercoil (present Kanniyakumari district). Nagercoil civil hospital was functioning in a densely populated region and had been attending the cases of military personnel like the Nair Brigade. These hospitals were manned by the dedicated apothecaries like Swaminatha Pillai, Kandasamy, Narayana Rao and S.B.Soir.

During 1962, the district had only three government hospitals at Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai and six primary health centres at Agasthiswaram, Muttom, Karingal, Arudesam, Rajakkamangalam and Edaicode. At present 7 government hospitals, 22 primary health centres, and a government Tuberculosis hospital are functioning in this district, as listed below and apart from these, separate wings are functioning for the treatment of patients in native systems of medicine i.e. siddha, ayurveda and homoeopathy. For leprosy patients, separate wings are functioning in most of the government hospitals. They are furnished under the headings "Indian Medicine and Leprosy Control Programme".

The List of Government Medical Institutions [20]

Sl.No.	*Name of the Institution*	*Location*	*Bed Strength*
1.	Government Tuberculosis Hospital	Acharipallam	370
2.	Government Headquarters Hospital	Nagercoil	342
3.	Government Hospital	Padmanabhapuram	70
4.	Government Hospital	Kuzhithurai	32
5.	Government Hospital	Colachel	32

Sl.No.	*Name of the Institution*	*Location*	*Bed Strength*
6.	Government Hospital	Boothapandy	15
7.	Government Hospital	Kulasekaram	16
8.	Government Hospital	Arumanai	15
9.	Primary Health Centre	Cape Comerin	–
10.	Primary Health Centre	Aralvoimozhi	–
11.	Primary Health Centre	Singalayarpuri	–
12.	Primary Health Centre	Thengapattinam	–
13.	Primary Health Centre	Kottaram	–
14.	Primary Health Centre	Azhagappapuram	–
15.	Primary Health Centre	Thuthoor	–
16.	Primary Health Centre	Ganapathipuram	–
17.	Primary Health Centre	Palliyadi	–
18.	Primary Health Centre	Agasthiswaram	6
19.	Primary Health Centre	Arudesam	6
20.	Primary Health Centre	Chenbagaramanpudur	30
21.	Primary Health Centre	Edaicode	6
22.	Primary Health Centre	Karingal	6
23.	Primary Health Centre	Kothanallur	6
24.	Primary Health Centre	Kuttukuzhi	6
25.	Primary Health Centre	Muttom	6
26.	Primary Health Centre	Rajakkamangalam	6
27.	Primary Health Centre	Munchirai	6
28.	Primary Health Centre	Kurunthencode	6
29.	Primary Health Centre	Arumanallore	–
30.	Primary Health Centre	Vellichandai	–

Organisation of the Medical Department : The government primary health centres were under the control of the Director of Medical Services at State level and District Medical Officer at district level till 1964. In the

year 1965, they were brought under the control of the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at state level and District Health Officer at district level.

By merging the Directorates of Medical Services, and Public Health, the Department of Health Services and Family Planning was formed in the year 1966. Again in 1976, the Integrated Department of Health Services and Family Planning was bifurcated into Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Department of Medical Services and Family welfare. The Drug Control Branch which was attached to the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine was formed separately as an independent department in the year 1981. In 1980, the primary health centres were seperated from the Public Health Department and a new Directorate under the control of Director of Primary Helath Centres was established. The Director of Public Health is in overall charge of all the offices in the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Department in the state. He is looking after planning and formulation of various programmes connected with the development of public health activities, promotion of maternal and child health, prevention and control of communicable diseases and prevention of food adulteration. For the effective implementation of medical care and public health programmes, government ordered (in G.O. Ms. No. 905 Health and Family Welfare dated 26 May 1980) the reorganisation of Public Health Department, by which seven regions, each under the control of a Regional Deputy Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, have been formed. The Regional Deputy Director is in charge of two or three revenue districts, covered in the seven regional offices. Besides, 29 Health Unit districts have been formed and a District Health Officer is in charge of each Health Unit District, which has jurisdiction over 22 primary health centres, on an average.

Kanniyakumari Health Unit District comes under the control of the Regional Deputy Director of Public Health and Preventive medicine, Tirunelveli. The District Health Officer is the Programme Officer, for implementing all the public health programmes. The District Medical Officer is incharge of all the government hospitals. He implements National Programmes like tuberculosis and leprosy.

The District Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Health Officer is in charge of the implementation of various family welfare programmes in the district. Under the direct supervisory control of the Director of Indian Medicine, Madras, the District Siddha Medical Officer functions.

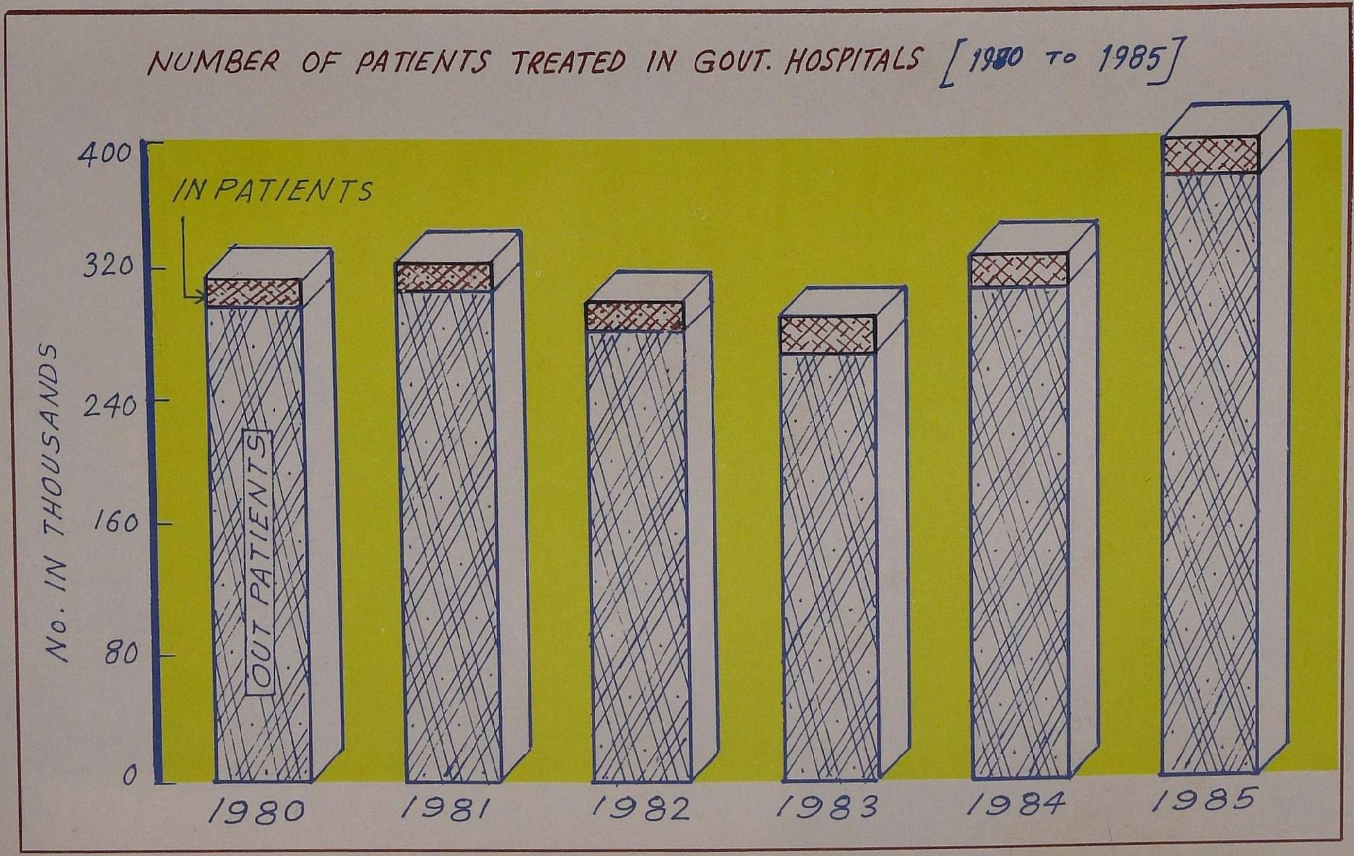
Doctors and Nurses : There are 79 doctors and 102 nurses working in various government hospitals, under the control of the District Medical Officer. 52 doctors and six nurses are functioning under the control of District Health Officer, Nagercoil. The government tuberculosis hospital has the staff strength of 7 doctors and 50 nurses.

The over all bed strength of all the hospitals in the district is 1038. The break up is, government hospitals 550, government tuberculosis hospital 370, and primary health centres 118.

The various special departments functioning in government head quarters hospital, Nagercoil are medical, surgical, gynaecology, paediatrics, ophthalmology, STD, ENT, psychiatric, orthopaedic, dental and diabetic. Apart from this a well equipped x-ray plant, and also a blood bank are available here. In the government hospital, Padmanabhapuram, medical, surgical, gynaecology, paediatrics and dental departments are in operation. Siddha system of treatment is also given here. The government hospital, Kuzhithurai has medical, surgical, gynaecology and dental departments. A medical department and a dental department are functioning in the government hospital, Colachel. In the government tuberculosis hospital, Acharipallam a well equipped laboratory and an x-ray plant have been set up.

The number of patients treated in various government hospitals, dispensaries etc., in the district since 1980-87 is given below:[21]

Year	*In patients*	*Out Patients*	*Total*
1980	16767	296761	313528
1981	17979	306421	324400
1982	18785	282591	301376
1983	21445	269064	290509
1984	20881	308476	329357
1985	21354	376706	398060
1986	20591	304128	324719
1987	22296	296354	318650


NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GOVT. HOSPITALS [1980 TO 1985]
IN PATIENTS
OUT PATIENTS
No. IN THOUSANDS
400
320
240
160
80
0
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985

Special Medical Institutions

Government Tuberculosis Hospital Nagercoil : This hospital at Asaripallam, about 5 km. away from Nagercoil town, is located at an elevation of 150 feet above the sea-level and the temperature here varies between minimum of 60°F. and a maximum of 85°F. The total area of the hospital site is 100 acres. The foundation of the hospital was laid by Her. Excellency, the Marquis of Linlithgow in 1939 and it was opened by Seth Ambalai Sarabai in 1941. Until the merger of the district in November 1956, the hospital was under the administrative control of erstwhile Travancore State. Consequent on the reorganisation of states the hospital, was taken charge by the government of Tamil Nadu, and it is under the supervisory control of the Director of Medical Services and Family Welfare, Madras. A well equipped laboratory with facilities to do sputum culture and also an x-ray plant set up in this hospital.

Prior to 1958, there was no regular out-patient department. Only during 1958, a regular out-patient department started functioning. The in-patient department of the hospital consists of 370 beds. The number of doctors and nurses working here are 7 and 50 respectively. The patients are given anti-tubercular drugs. Patients in general wards are given diet free of cost, if their monthly income is below Rs.300/-. Major and minor operations as the case may be, are performed in cases requiring surgical aid. The number of patients treated each year since 1980 to 1986 is furnished below:[22]

Year	*In patients*	*Out patients*	*Total*
1980	4014	27920	31834
1981	4240	26369	30609
1982	4237	24047	28284
1983	4008	19959	23967
1984	3744	21085	24829
1985	4149	22699	26848
1986	3753	18258	22011

Charles Pease Memorial (Leprosy) Hospital, Colachel : This hospital serves as a rehabilitation centre for leprosy patients. It was started in a shed in 1890 by Dr. E. Sargood Fry at CSI hospital, Neyyoor, for protecting a few houseless leprosy victims. When the number of patients

increased, this centre was shifted to the present site at Colachel with 95 patients. The site with four spacious buildings and a chapel was donated by the Noble Lady Mrs. Charles Pease, in whose memory, this institution has been named.

At present, the hospital has facilities to accommodate 200 in-patients at a time. It treats more than 7000 out-patients every year. More than eighty leprosy patients are fed daily and given treatment in the hospital. The services of the patients cured, are utilised for mat knitting, weaving, tailoring, agriculture and preparation of cement pots.[23]

Treatment of patients with mental ailments : There is no separate mental hospital in Kanniyakumari district. Persons affected by mental diseases are sent to the Institute of Mental Health, Madras.

Medical facilities provided in rural areas : Health is a positive attribute of life. It is characterised by a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease. The aim of the government is to reach the goal through a network of primary health centres, community health centres, health sub-centres, mini health centres and mobile health services. With the introduction of multi purpose health workers scheme, the health workers, who were exercising unipurpose functions over a large area, serving a large population, have now been trained to perform multi-purpose duties in a de-linked areas, covering lesser population, so that they can deliver both preventive and promotive health care to the people more efficiently. Primary health care is a practical approach, in improving the health status of population. Keeping this object in view, the government have undertaken necessary measures to achieve the goal of "Health for All by 2000 A.D.".

In pursuance of this objective, Parliament has approved the national health policy, which lays considerable stress on the promotive, preventive and preventive rehabilitation aspects of health-delivery especially among the rural masses near their door steps and indicates the time frame within which various health care parameters are to be achieved.[24] Towards the commitment, government have been providing increasingly better medical aid and health care facilities especially for the rural population qualitatively and quantitatively. Rural health care facilities are provided by the government by maintaining the primary health centres already in position, by establishing additional primary health centres, organising mobile teams sanctioning mini health centres and by upgrading primary health centres under a phased programme.

Primary health centre is the pivotal centre, where from all activities relating to the preventive, promotive and curative health care of the rural population radiate. The aim of the government is to establish one primary health centre for every 30,000 population. As regards Kanniyakumari district, 22 primary health centres are functioning. Each centre consists of three medical officers (i.e. assistant surgeons, one for general, the other for family welfare and another one to attend to public health activities in the villages), and other complementary staff, viz., health inspectors, health visitors, multi purpose health workers (male and female) health assistants, pharmacist and male nursing assistants-cum-sweepers.

Medical Care : During 1987, as many as 3,11,245 patients were given treatment in the district as out-patients in the 22 primary health centres. The number of in-patients, who underwent treatment in the above centres was 621.[25]

Among water borne diseases, cholera is important. Early detection of dehydration will help reducing the mortality rate. Intensive education in oral rehydration training is being imparted by the public health staff to the public. The medical officers and the field staff of the primary health centres are instructed to observe strict surveillance notification of communicable diseases.

For vaccine preventable diseases, immunisation is given as a preventive measure, besides medical care and health education, and for the vaccine non available diseases, curative services are intensified along with sanitary service and health education with a view to reduce mortality.

School Health Programme : This programme is implemented in all the primary health centres and in municipalities in the district, health appraisal of school children in the age group of 6 to 11 years is done by a team of medical officers and health visitors. The children requiring specialised treatment are referred to referal hospitals for treatment. Health education is imparted in schools, so that all students can learn the elementary details about health and different diseases. The feature of this programme is that every school child is provided with a cumulative health card. Teams of medical officers and health supervisors conduct the health check ups. Minor treatment is given on the spot, and the cases requiring special treatments are referred to headquarters hospital, Nagercoil. Also health education on various aspects is given to the teachers and the

parents. Up to February 1988, the medical officers had examined 22633 school children and the health of 4957 children were found to be defective and they were given treatment, accordingly.

Mobile Medical Care : This scheme came into operation in 1977-78 in selective primary health centres. Thereafter, it was extended to all the primary health centres in a phased manner. Under this scheme, a team consisting of a medical officer and two pharmacists render medical service to the rural folk at their doors. Besides, village welfare committees are formed and they are encouraged to help the team to serve the rural public more effectively. Under this scheme, 501 villages were visited and 27211 patients given treatments, till February 1988.

Health Education : A wing of the State Health Education Bureau of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, carries out health education activities in various parts of the district, with the following objectives :-

(i) help the people to achieve "Health for All by 2000 AD" by integrating health education with every public activity. (ii) help the people to understand and identify their health problems and solve them by enlisting their active participation and cooperation; (iii) help all the health staff to understand the health education components and implement public health programme successfully.

For the successful implementation of the various on going public health service programmes, health education of the public by assembling them in small groups, is carried out by using (i) educational aids, (ii) interview technique and communication chart through mass media like television, radio, press, exhibitions, cinema etc. (iii) by distribution of posters and hand bills, and (iv) by organising special campaigns forming part of the health education strategy. The media unit functions in implementing these programmes.

Rural Health Training Programme : Rural health training centres are functioning in the district in Rajakkamangalam, Chenbakaramanpudur and Kothanalloor primary health centres. The rural health training centres were established with the assistance of World Bank , and Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project (TINP) to impart training to the multi-purpose health workers (female). In each centre, about 10 to 15 candidates are imparted

training, for a period of six months. During the course of training the trainees are taught preventive, curative and promotive measures and also family welfare services.

Maternity and Child Welfare : This is the basic service rendered to the public through the primary health centres. All the mothers in the stage of pregnancy are listed out in a mother care register and due care is bestowed upon them. They are immunised against tetanus. The mothers suffering from anaemia are issued with 100 iron tablets. As many as 5851 child births have been taken care of by the primary health centres staff. All the new born children are listed out in a child care register and steps taken then and there to immunise them, against the diseases viz., diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, poliomylitis, measles and typhoid.

Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy : The consumption of medicine is not only to cure the disease but to conserve the health. Medicine is still seeking a scientific solution to this problem, which has confronted it from the beginning of human existence.

The indigenous system of treatment includes siddha and ayurveda which play a significant role in this district. A large number of patients undergo treatment under these systems. From time immemorial, the siddha system of treatment has been flourishing in the district. In the field of siddha, several persons who had specialised in this system, had rendered best services in the district. The role played by Mydeen Adimai, populary known as Pattanam Vaidyar, Narayanasamy known as Royal Vaidyar, Shanmugha Vaidyar, and Kochu Vaidyar cannot be ignored. They rendered commendable service to the public in the first half of the 20th Century.[26] The noted ayurvedic physicians were the members of Vattapalli Matt of Sucindram, Mahadeva Iyer of Darisanamkoppu, Neelakanda Vaidyar, Velu Vaidyar and Damodharampillai Vaidyar, hailed form the district. Kattukkadi Asan and Athoor Chellammal were the famous varmanies. Kattukkadai Asan was very popular in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu.

Vattapalli Parmeswara Sharma of Sucindram, otherwise known as Vaikattu Pachy Moothathu (1813-1882 A.D.) was not only a celebrated ayurvedic physician, but also a sanskrit scholar, a noted painter, a gifted poet, a well versed grammarian, a famous historian, and above all an astrologer. He was the first Principal and Director of Ayurvedic School,

and the nucleus of the present Ayurvedic college at Trivandrum. There are more than 500 practitioners in siddha and ayurvedic systems of medicine in the district, as in 1988.

Dr. Padmanabha Pillai was the pioneer in homoeopathy. But it was Dr. Thobias who popularised the system among the people of Kanniyakumari. Now, there are 50 qualified doctors and nearly 200 certificate holders in homoeopathy in the district. Now-a-days, the indigenous systems have received significant recognition amongst a number of modern allopathic physicians. As a part of their research programme, the Medical and Cancer Research and Treatment Centre, Nagercoil, conducted a sample survey to identify the various systems of medical practices prevalent in rural areas of the District. The findings are very intersting. Of the 1000 people interviewed, 72 percent have accepted indigenous medicine, as their first choice and 28 percent have choosen allopathy. It is noteworthy that, besides traditional faith in indigenous medicine, they choose it primarily for its efficacy. For diseases like varma, jaundice, rheumatism, artheritis, fracture, loss of hair, eye-problems, whooping cough, piles, weeping eczema, (vishakkadi) fungal infection (phuzhukkadi) and leucodermia their choice is 100 per cent, for indigenous system.

Though medical amenities under allopathy system are available for 96.8 per cent of the population of the district, they prefer only the indigenous system. Accordingly, this system is predominantly practised in the district. The vaidyas are highly acceptable by all and also easily accessible.

Siddha, ayurveda and homoeopathy treatment wings in government hospitals : Government have also taken keen interest for rendering medical relief to the public under the Indian system of medicine and homoeopathy. They have accordingly opened siddha and ayurvedic wings as well as homoeopathy dispensaries in the places as listed below:[27]

	Name of the Institution	*Location*
1.	Siddha wing government head quarters hospital	Nagercoil
2.	Siddha wing taluk hospital	Padmanabhapuram
3.	Siddha wing government hospital	Kuzhithurai
4.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Agasthiswaram

5.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Arudesam
6.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Chembagaramanpudur
7.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Edaicodu
8.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Karingal
9.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Kuttukuzhi
10.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Muttom
11.	Siddha wing primary health centre	Rajakkamangalam
12.	Rural siddha dispensary	Poovancode
13.	Ayurvedic dispensary	Edalakudi
14.	Ayurvedic dispensary	Thiruppathisaram.
15.	Ayurvedic dispensary	Pudukadic
16.	Homoeopathy dispensary government head quarter's hospital	Nagercoil

Siddha wings functioning at the headquarters hospital, Nagercoil, taluk hospital, Padmanabhapuram and government hospital, Kuzhithurai have 10 beds each to facilitate in-patients.[28] These wings are functioning under the control of the district siddha medical officer. In the district, 14 assistant medical officers for siddha, 3 for ayurveda and 1 for homoeopathy and 14 pharmacists are working under this system as on 31 October, 1988. The number of patients treated under these systems of medicine in the government institutions in the past six years is furnished below:

		Outpatients		Inpatients
Year (1)	Siddha (2)	Ayurveda (3)	Homoeopathy (4)	Siddha (5)
1982	136983	65999	–	81
1983	126016	60494	–	4
1984	187747	65230	–	18
1985	151500	57418	2974	55
1986	121663	43217	15327	54
1987	195986	33860	21405	630

Free Medical Camps. In order to popularise this system among the rural mass, free medical camps are conducted under siddha, ayurvedic and homoeopathy systems of medicine in rural areas every month. The attendance of patients to the free medical camps is encouraging. Two free medical camps in 1986 and 9 free medical camps in 1987 have been conducted in the district where 1214 and 5936 patients were treated.

Herbal Garden. In government hospital, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai and in primary health centres Agasthiswaram, Arudesam, Chenbakaramanpudur, Edaicode, Karingal, Muttom and Kuzhithurai herbal gardens have been formed.

Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes. The people of Kanniyakumari are lucky enough to have such a large number of hospitals and nursing homes with modern equipments. There are more than 500 doctors and nearly 100 nursing homes functioning in this small district. As regards private medical practitioners in the district, the services rendered by Dr.M. Gopala Pillai in medicine, Dr. M. Mathias in surgery, Dr. Hilkhia in diagnosis, and Dr. M.E. Naidu in maternity in the first half of this century cannot be forgotten. The services of Dr. Thayammal Yesudin, the first lady doctor of the district, in the field of maternity and child health are really remarkable. Dr. S. Muthukaruppa Pillai, another famous doctor, has also rendered commendable service in the field of medicine, particularly to rural people, in Agasthiswaram and Thovala taluks. He set up a clinic at Therur in 1933 and used to visit the surrounding villages in a bullock cart. He is the first recipient of the Dr. Bhandary award, which was introduced in 1982 for "outstanding rural medical services in the state".[29]

Though there are several medical institutions, in the district, the following are noteworthy for tneir best services to the public. They are the Kanniyakumari Medical Mission's Church of South India hospitals at Neyyoor, Nagercoil, Marthandam, Kulasekaram, and Colachel, Catherine Booth Hospital, Vadasery, Carmel Hospital, Manalikkarai, Holy Cross Hospital, Vettoornimadam and Hindu Mission Hospital, Sucindram. The services rendered by these hospitals are narrated below.

Kanniyakumari Medical Missions : (CSI-Hospital-Neyyoor).[30] This mission having been established by Dr. H.A. Ramsay, a Missionary from London Mission Society, has been serving the people of this area since 1838. Dr. Ramsay retired from the mission work within a year of his entry, and his services were continued by doctors and nurses, who came from

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GOVT. HOSPITALS
UNDER INDIGENOUS SYSTEM
(1982 TO 1985)
Nos. IN THOUSANDS
270
240
210
180
150
120
90
60
30
0
HOMEOPATHY
AYURVEDA
SIDDHA
1982
1983
1984
1985

C.S.I Hospital, Neyyoor

England. In the beginning, this mission was under the control of South Travancore Medical Mission. After the formation of Kanniyakumari district and its merger with Madras State in 1956, the Church of South India, Kanniyakumari diocese was set up and the medical mission was renamed as Kanniykumari Medical Mission. Dr. Leitch opened a dispensary at Neyyoor in 1852 in a small scale. In 1861, a separate hospital building was constructed at Neyyoor. Since, then, it has become the head of the medical work of the London Mission. Dr. John Lows established a first medical school there in 1864. The school of Nursing was informally started in 1885. It was in 1923, the formal nursing training was started and the first batch of the students got recognition from the Registrar for Nursing, Madras in 1926.

In the year 1930, the first batch of students under Christian Medical Association of India graduated from this institution. government recognition for midwifery training was obtained during 1939. Eminent doctors like Fells and Bentall elevated the medical mission to the status of the largest medical mission in the world, as early as 1910 with the staff strength of two missionaries, 17 Indian doctors, and 6 Indian nurses. A record number of 76,000 patients were treated during that year and 5,000 patients underwent surgical operations. This hospital reached a bed strength of 100, during the regime of Dr. S.H. Pugh in 1912. Dr. T.H. Somerwell, the Everest Expedition hero of international fame worked here for three decades. He came to India in 1922 and earned a very good name in surgery. In 1932 this mission treated 2,17,000 patients. The services rendered by Indian doctors like Jayasekaran, William and Kingsley are also to be placed on record. At present, Dr. J.C. Vijayan, M.S., M.P.H (USA), is the Superintendent of this hospital.

The International Cancer Centre was established along with the Central Hospital at Neyyoor in 1963. It was controlled by a Trust of London. Dr. Jenkins was the founder and the first Joint Director of the centre. In the year 1986, this mission has treated 50,502 out-patients and 14,959 in-patients. This mission celebrated its 150th anniversery in 1988.

The present bed strength of the hospital is 250. It has got all facilities for surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, general medicine, ophthalmology, dermatology, paediatric, radio diagnosis, anesthesia and dental surgery. The average strength of out-patients treated per day is 250 while in-patients is 200.

The object of this mission is to extend medical facilities to the poor and needy sick people, irrespective of caste and creed. Weekly peripheral clinics, free-eye camps, and monthly medical clinics are also organised by the mission in villages. Besides the School of Nursing, the mission has also started a School of Radio Diagnosis and a School of Laboratory Technology course during the year 1985.

CSI Hospital, Nagercoil. This was the first-hospital established by London Missionary Society in 1838 by Dr.H.A. Ramsay, at Nagercoil. Later on it was shifted to Neyyoor. The present hospital was opened in 1880 by Dr. Smith Thomsen. This is a 25 bedded general Hospital, with x-ray and laboratary facilities.

CSI Hospital, Marthandam. This was established in the year 1883, by Dr.P. Vedamanickam in a small building at Thoduvetty. This was the first hospital in Vilavancode taluk. Considering the increasing need of the people, this was shifted to the new building constructed at Marthandam in 1892. It is a general hospital, having x-ray, and laboratory facilities. There are 4 doctors and 22 nurses attached to this hospital.

CSI Hospital, Kulasekaram. This hospital, with 50 beds, 3 doctors and 7 nurses at Kulasekaram was established in 1900 by Dr. S.G. Samuel. It has laboratory and x-ray facilities.

Catherine Booth Hospital, Vadasery. The Salvation Army's Catherine Booth Hospital, an outstanding medical institution in the medical world of Tamil Nadu was established at Vadaseri, Nagercoil in the year 1892[31] by one Mr. Harry Andrews. The Director was Mr. William Stevens Booth of Salavation Army. It is a general hospital with special departments such as gynaecology, dental, ophthalmology, isolation ward, rehabilitation physiotheraphy and spinal injury ward.

Mr. Harry Andrews who came to India as a missionary gave existence to this hospital in a tiny bathroom, with a view to afford medical facilities to the poor and the downtrodden. When more patients stepped into this small bathroom dispensary, in course of time, it was too inadequate to treat them all. So, the first building was erected in 1897 and it was named as "the Catherine Booth Dispensary" in memory of Catherine Booth, the wife of the founder of the Salvation Army General, General William Booth. It was Dr. Percy Turner, a renowned ophthalmologist, who gave face lift to

The Salvation Army Catherine Booth Hospital, Vadasery

this dispensary, by widening and developing all sections. It was during the period of Dr. William A Noble, many innovations were made.

Since 1895, the hospital has grown by leaps and bounds to the present status of a 300 bedded hospital, with a good team of dedicated and well-trained medical and para-medical staff. An intensive coronary care unit and a separate ophthalmic building with an air conditioned operation theatre and latest equipment like the cryo are available here. Three fully equipped air- conditioned theatres for general surgery are also attached in this hospital. Besides, separate buildings for gynaecology and obstetrics have been constructed. The general public of Kanniyakumari district are much impressed with the medical treatement given to the patients with great care and caution in this hospital and this is evidenced from the fact that 15048 out-patients and 6751 in-patients have undergone treatment in this hospital in the year 1986. A sum of about Rs.40 lakhs is granted by the Salvation Army per year as subsidy to the Catherine Booth Hospital, from which a sum of Rs. 12 to 15 lakhs is spent, as subsidy to the poor and downtrodden. Eighty five to ninety per cent of the patients receive subsidy towards payment of the nominal fees charged by the hospital. Since 1938, a School of Nursing is functioning here, which turns out 25 qualified graduate nurses every year. So many progressive measures are being undertaken even today for the benefit of the downtrodden, sick and needy, such as community health programmes (both urban and rural) and rehabilitation and vocational training centre for physically handicapped. two vocational training centres are also run by the CBH for the benefit of the physically handicapped, one at Aralvoimozhi in Thovalai taluk and another at Nagercoil. It is worth mentioning that Thiru Sunder Egbert, the manager of the training centre at Aralvoimozhi is himself a handicapped, and a strict disciplinarian. Free eye camps are conducted by the CBH, 4 times in a year, in which about 400 patients undergo operation successfully. With the co-ordination of the district health officer, covering a population of 10,000 in a unit, two health centres one at Osaravilai (Agasthiswaram taluk) and another at Chemparuthivilai (Kalkulam taluk) are established by the CBH in 1986. Osaravilai health centre is having a sub-centre at Sahayapuram and Chemparuthivilai health centre is having a sub-centre at Perunchilambu. In urban community health programme, mother and child health care and family planning services are being rendered. In Rural community health programme, family planning services, immunisation to pregnant mothers, children and health education are given. These centres provide simple curative service, ante-natal care, post-natal care and health education to the rural public.

Services rendered by the Vivekananda Kendra in the field of medicine. Vivekananda kendra also runs 12 free medical centres since 1973 for the persons suffering from common ailments in and around Kanniyakumari.[32] Mobile medical services are also being rendered to the public by the kendra since 1974. Upto 1987, six eye camps were organised by this kendra, in which 979 patients were screened and 37 were advised for operations.

Kanniyakumari Hindu Mission Hospital, Suchindram. It is a charitable health institution sponsored by the Kanniyakumari Hindu mission society and it was declared open by Jagadguru Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, at Sucindram in the year 1978. The objectives of this mission is to extend medical aid to all people expecially the poor sections of society at a very nominal charge. This mission has treated more than one lakh of poor people, who hail from the surrounding villages of Nagercoil during the past 10 years. This hospital also provides specialist services in skin, heart, child health and ENT free of cost.

Dr.M.E. Naidoo's Hospital - Kottar. This hospital was established in the year 1914 by the late Dr. M.E. Naidoo. In the beginning, it was accommodated in a small building at Kottar with the bed strength of 10. Within a short period, it became very popular and the building was extended by constructing 40 rooms with all facilities. A clinical laboratory for doing serology, haemotalogy, bio-chemical examination of blood and urine analysis etc, is attached to the hospital. This hospital is noted for mid-wifery. A well equipped operation theatre and a x-ray department are also attached to the hospital. All types of diseases are treated here, with utmost care and caution.

Dr. Gopala Pillai's Hospital - Nagercoil.[33] Dr. Gopala Pillai commenced his practice in medicine in the year 1934, at Kottar. Later, he established a 30 bedded hospital at Ramavarmapuram to treat medical cases particularly poor and needy. After his demise in 1960 his eldest son Dr. Surendran and his daughter-in-law Dr. Indira Surendran continued this sacred service. At present, this hospital is having special departments such as medicine, psychiatry, obsterics and gynaecology anesthesiology, radiology, ultrasonography and also ophthalmology. There are also visiting surgeons doing general surgery, a consultant paediatrician, a visiting neuro-surgeon and a visiting orthopaedician. There are facilities for full time clinical pathological and biochemical laboratories as well as pathology and bacteriology. The Department of medicine has Intensive

Care Unit, E.C.G. unit etc. The department of obstetrics and gynaecology has modern facilities such as laparoscopy, hysteroscopy. microsurgery, ultrasound etc. Ten percent of the in-patients who are poor and downtrodden are only identified and given free medical treatment including surgical and other treatments. Besides medical aid, stress is laid on educating the public about the preventive medicine, health care etc. The department of family planning, attached to the gynaecology unit has been approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu. This hospital caters to the needs of the rich as well as the poor sections of the society. A library is also maintained by the hospital authority, where books on recent advances in medicine and obstetrics and gynaecology and medical journals are collected and preserved.

Mathias Hospital-Nagercoil :[34] This is one of the biggest private medical institutions in the district, started by late Dr. Mathias, in November 1928 at Kottar, Nagercoil. Dr. Mathias was noted for general surgery as well as medicine. He was the first to realise the need for good beds for in-patients. Having this sacred services in mind, he established a well equipped hospital with 30 beds at Kottar. During 1950, the hospital was shifted from Kottar to Ramavarmapuram, where he started a 150 bedded hospital, of which 20 beds were set apart to give free medical treatment to the poor and needy. This hospital has special departments such as x-ray, operation theatre. ENT, etc. It has a well equipped laboratory also. After the demise of Dr. Mathias, the hospital is now run by his sons.

Other important private hospitals running in and around Nagercoil, are listed below:-

1.	Abdul Kadir hospital	Nagercoil
2.	Bensam hospital	"
3.	Jayasekaran hospital	"
4.	Latha nursing home	"
5.	Poly clinic	"
6.	Ganesamony hospital	"
7.	Sheela Thomas hospital	Nagercoil
8.	Pioneer Indira hospital	"
9.	Sankar hospital	"
10.	Ramamoorthy hospital	

11.	J.J.hospital	"
12.	Enoch hospital	Kulasekaran
13.	Velayudam pillai memorial hospital	"
14.	George hospital	Thuckalay
15.	Vijai hospital	Thuckalay
16.	Indross hospital	Thittuvilai
17.	John Joseph hospital	Kuzhithurai
18.	ChandRa Hospital	Marthandam
19.	Devadoss hospital	Nithiravilai
20.	William hospital	Nagercoil
21.	Raman nursing home	Nagercoil
22.	Sankaralingam hospital	Nagercoil
23.	Biswass hospital	Marthandam
24.	Indira hospital	Thuckalay
25.	Subramania pillai memorial hospital	Theroor

Medical and Cancer Research and Treatment Centre (MCRTC) Nagercoil. In the implementation of '*Health For All*' by the year 2000 AD', envisaged by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Kanniyakumari district with its rich medical heritage plays an important role. As a first step, in September 1987, the foundation was laid for the formation of the Medical and Cancer Research and Treatment Centre at Nagercoil. It is the most innovative project in health service and medicare, and it may as well be considered as a remarkable contribution, to the scheme of World Health Organisations.

The uniqueness of this scheme is that it is a combined effort of all religions. All are united by a charitable trust launched by Rev. Arch Bishop Dr.M. Arokkiasamy. He has not only taken all initiative for forming the trust, but has also graciously set apart a building in the Bishop's compound, Asaripallam Road, Nagercoil and a land of five acres to build the hospital and research centre, free of cost. The main object of the trust is to serve the tribal people and poor fishermen living in coastal areas by proper diagnosis and treatment. There is also a Women's Health Project

which screens women above the age of 25 years for general health and cancer. In this hospital, 80 per cent of the patients who are very poor are given free medical aid, the rest to pay a nominal amount.

Family Welfare. The problem of keeping the rate of growth of population under check has been engaging the attention of the government for a long time, and the State Family Welfare Bureau has been assisting the government in formulating new schemes from time to time for the effective implementation of the family welfare programmes. Even though family welfare schemes were introduced as early as 1945 in this State, it was only in 1958, with the formation of panchayat development blocks, through their information and publicity media, that the whole programme was taken on a war footing. It is needless to say that the main emphasis in this programme as implemented in this state is on sterilization operations and appriciable results have been achieved in this venture. Also in the interest of the economic development of the country, there is now a dire necessity for reducing further more the birth rate, death rate, Infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate.

Family welfare in Kanniyakumari district.[35] The reorganised family welfare programme was introduced in this district in the year 1966, under the direct supervision of the district health officer, Nagercoil. In 1969, the district family welfare bureau was established, under the supervision of the district family planning maternity and child health officer, and this bureau is functioning in Nagercoil.

As per 1981 census, the total population of the district was 14,23,399. As in March 1985, the birth rate was 23 per thousand population. As in June 1987, the rate of protected couples was 45.6 per thousand population, and the number of eligible couples were 220080.

The publicity unit carry out publicity work and mass media activities while the other units carry out the functions, for which they are meant. As regards rural family welfare centres, seven field workers in each centre are engaged in motivational and publicity work in the block level.

Apart from the nine rural family welfare centres, six urban family welfare centres and hundred and one sub-centres are functioning in the district, to dessiminate the knowledge on family welfare among the public.

The primary health centres are also functioning as rural family welfare centres. They are situated at Agasthiswaram, Arudesam, Chenbakaramanpudur, Edaicode Karingal, Kothanallur, Kuttukuzhi, Rajakkamangalam and Muttom. All the urban family welfare centres sanctioned previously to Kanniyakumari district have been recognised as urban health posts. As in December 1988, all the areas of Nagercoil is covered by urban health posts. There is no urban family welfare centre in Nagercoil town. Under urban revamping scheme, four urban health posts have been sanctioned to Nagercoil town to strengthen the delivery of family welfare, maternity and child health and primary health care, and out reach services to cover the entire urban population especially the slums, as detailed below.

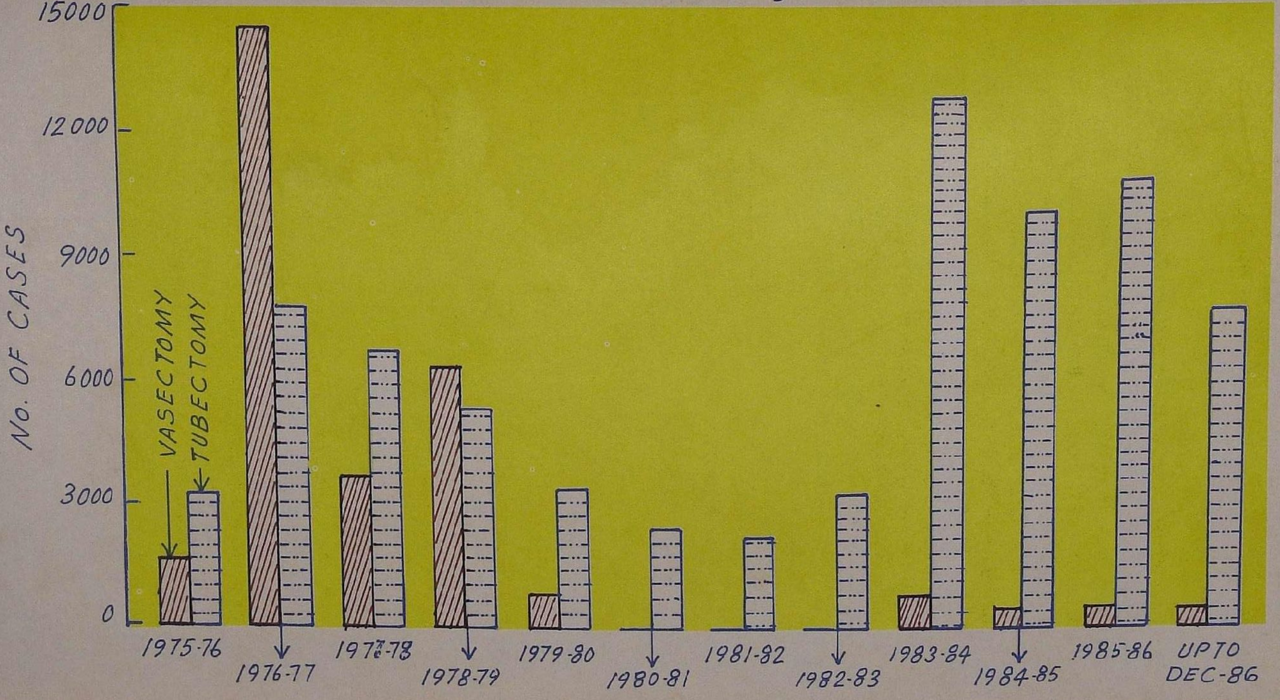
Sl.No.	Location of urban health post	Type	Implementing agency
1.	Vettoorinimadam	D	Local body organisation
2.	Town	D	-do-
3.	Chettikulam (attached to government HQ. hospital Nagercoil	D	State organisation
4.	Edalakudy	C	Local body organisation

Private voluntary organisations like Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil, the Church of South India hospital and the Kanniyakumari Medical Mission also play vital role in the successful implementation of family welfare programme in the district.

Vasectomy, tubectomy and Indra uterine divices services are available in the district in all the government hospitals, including the primary health centres and the voluntary services organisations like Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil and the C.S.I., Hospital, Neyyoor. Besides, twenty-five other private hospitals have also been approved by the government to perform the operations under family welfare programme.

In this district, 62 doctors have been specially trained to perform family welfare surgeries (13 doctors for vasectomy, 11 for tubectomy, 10 for laproscopic, 12 for medical termination of pregnancy and 16 doctors for IUD insertions) up to January 1987.

NUMBER OF VASECTOMY AND TUBECTOMY OPERATIONS DONE
[1975-76 TO 1986-87]



With a view to bring down the Infant mortality and maternal mortality rate, the traditional birth attendants who are conducting more number of deliveries were given training for 30 days at the primary health centres to enable them to conduct aseptic deliveries and thereby reducing the maternal deaths and increasing the care towards the new borns. Three hundred and seventy two dais have been trained, since inception of this programme in 1975. There are still 221 untrained dais to be trained in the district and efforts are made to train them shortly.

Family Welfare Compaigns. The family welfare compaigns are periodically organised in the district by the district Collector. In each camp, a large number of sterilizations are done. Government have sanctioned special temporary advances for the purpose of conducting such camps. Government have also directed that in addition the panchayat unions and municipalities having surplus general funds in excess of Rs.3,00,000 as on 1 April, 1983, be permitted to contribute from their general funds, a sum of Rs.25,000/- for the conduct of special camps in the district. The details of achievements under family welfare, in the past 13 years are furnished in the table below : The expenditure incurred under family welfare programme in the same period, is furnished in table-2 below :

Table-1

Year	*Vasectomy*	*Tubec-tomy*	*IUD*	*c.c.User*	*o.p.User*
1975-76	1685	3254	552	3419	–
1976-77	14478	7812	574	2996	506
1977-78	3720	6813	222	2679	412
1978-79	6404	5390	379	2393	428
1979-80	848	3429	321	2500	970
1980-81	27	2328	300	2408	826
1981-82	51	2284	414	2040	1015
1982-83	54	3298	476	2016	799
1983-84	791	12947	452	1650	70
1984-85	414	10304	700	4071	253
1985-86	447	10984	1219	5980	664
1986-87	864	11520	3062	5091	2487
1987-88	508	11955	9904	8954	5591

Table-2

Expenditure incurred under family welfare programme in Kanniyakumari district from 1975-76 to 1987-88.

Sl. No.	Year	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	1975-76	15,86,089
2.	1976-77	41,21,995
3.	1977-78	31,93,423
4.	1978-79	30,27,271
5.	1979-80	24,75,478
6.	1980-81	20,48,234
7.	1981-82	23,49,627
8.	1982-83	25,23,737
9.	1983-84	49,41,968
10.	1984-85	49,38,037
11.	1985-86	50,11,378
12.	1986-87	56,65,829
13.	1987-88	65,15,054

As many as 302 family welfare camps have been conducted in the district, since the inception of the programme till January 1987. Nirodh and oral pills are distributed to those who have a mind to postpone family planning surgeries.

Mass Media. The district family welfare bureau, Nagercoil gives wide publicity in the district on "Small Family Norm" by which various methods on family planning are explained in detail to the public. Film shows are also screened by the mass media authorities, even in remote tribal areas like Arukani and Ganapathy Kallu and coastal areas like Simon Colony and Melmidalam. Up to January 1987,290 shows were played in the District. More than 1000 people witnessed each show and got benefited. Dramas, cultural programmes, and rural audience programmes are also held by the publicity unit besides wall painting, pasting of wall posters and erection of boards with slogans highlighting family welfare programmes.

The block extension educators of this bureau also take up the cause of educating the general public about the various family welfare methods.

Apart from film shows, the village leader training camps, and seminars on population education are also often arranged by this department. During these camps and seminars, various family planning methods are discussed in depth. Teachers, medical officers and representatives of the general public participate in these seminars.

The aim of this programme is to reduce the birth rate to 21, death rate to 9, infant mortality rate to 60/1000 live births and to increase couple protection rate to 60 per cent by 1991-92 in Tamil Nadu. Motivation and publicity are the important factors in the implementation of this programme. Motivation is done by the family welfare field staff and also by the field staff of other departments like public health, municipal administration, rural development and local administration and revenue. The field staff of both public health and family welfare departments were instructed to cover 60 per cent of the deliveries conducted by them either by the terminal method or by the non-terminal method to achieve the prime goal, i.e., net reproduction rate-one by 1991-92 A.D. This 60 per cent coverage of deliveries has been reviewed as a vital subject of this national programme and the field staff are motivated accordingly by the medical officers of primary health centres and district officers.

Target in terms of number of cases is fixed to each officer of the department and he is expected to achieve the target before the deadline fixed. In this district, there is also the practice of giving special incentive to officers, who exceed the target.

To create more awareness, green card scheme was introduced in 1985 and 8300 green cards were revived by this district so far. These cards were issued to the acceptors of sterilization who had two living children. The green card holders will be given priority in medical check-up in all medical institutions and hence it acts as a catalyst to this programme.

Sanitation : The Goddess of Nature is bounteous with Kanniyakumari district. She has showered hills, sea coast, dales and rivers and forests, upon the district which endows, a conducive climate in the district. Periodical rainfall in the district is also another gift of nature. The climate improves the sanitary condition of the district besides the efforts of the service minded people and other local self governing bodies. The fundamental principles and the necessity to evolve the system of local self

governments even during the time of the Cholas and later, have been to improve the sanitation of the local areas.

There is an old saying in Tamil "நோயற்ற வாழ்வே குறைவற்ற செல்வம்" which means that "Health is Wealth". To achieve this, social workers as well as local bodies lay much emphasis to 'sanitation'. Providing potable water, cleaning the streets, curbing pollutions, providing good drainage system are the measures, the local bodies undertake, to improve the sanitary condition of the locality. In Kanniyakumari district, the four municipalities (ie.) Nagercoil, Padhmanabhapuram, Colachel and Kuzhithurai and 68 town panchayats and 88 village panchayats effectively look after Sanitation. The municipalities and town panchayats have employed conservancy staff to ensure good sanitaion of the town. Periodic spraying of pesticides prevents the breeding of mosquitoes. In the rural areas, public convenience is not a problem. In the urban areas, most of the houses have flush out latrines. For serving the floating population and the people who could not afford to have latrines, the municipalities and township maintain public conveniences.

The Nagercoil municipality maintains 48 public conveniences, 4 septic tank latrines and 4 pay and use latrines of which three have bathing facilities. The undulating structure of earth in the district prevents the stagnation of water and thereby helps the good working of drainage system. Most of the towns and villages in the district are provided with protected water supply either by means of over head tanks or through ground level reservoirs, hand pumps or wells, by the respective municipalities and panchayats. Nagercoil municpality maintains 42 public conveniences and 18 urinals, while Padhmanabhapuram municipality maintains 4 public conveniences and 4 urinals. All the four municipalities in the district and the Kanniyakumari township and all town panchayats have teams of health and sanitory staff viz. health inspectors, sanitary inspectors, sweepers, scavengers etc., to ensure cleanliness of the towns and to maintain good public health.

The detection of food adulteration and the inspection of public places such as eating houses, cinema theatres etc., have been done by the health staff of the local bodies to improve sanitation. Besides voluntary service organisations, volunteers of N.S.S. attached to various colleges and higher secondary schools, help to maintain good sanitation, at times of fairs and festivals.

Food Adulteration : Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 is in force in the district. Monthly target for food sampling have been fixed for all the four municipalities, panchayat unions, Kurunthencode, and Munchirai, Kanniyakumari township, and town panchayats, Azhagapuram, Asaripallam, Kottaram, Mylaudi, Marungoor, Pudukadai, Puthalam, Suchindram, Velathurai, and Villukuri. The monthly target is fixed to the local bodies based on the size of population and number of traders. Particulars of number of samples received, number analysed, reported, and found adulterated in the past five years are furnished below:-

Prevention of Food Adulteration.

Sl. No.	*Information*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987 (upto Sept.)*
1.	No. of samples received..	332	362	313	336	427	367
2.	No. of samples analysed..	341	349	299	370	424	350
3.	No. of samples found adulterated	37	41	22	34	45	15
4.	Percentage of adulteration.	10.85	11.75	7.36	9.19	10.61	4.29
5.	No. of prosecutions launched..	45	26	17	28	45	17
6.	No. of cases ended in conviction	14	19	5	14	1	2
7.	No. of cases acquitted..	11	31	11	20	37	9
8.	Fine amount imposed in Rs.	8000	12000	3500	14100	3000	700

Immunisation. From time immemorial, mankind has been attempting to take action against disease, to some extent, with desired result. One of the measures to prevent the occurrence of certain diseases especially infectious diseases is "the immunisation or vaccination". Vaccination is to stimulate an immunity, similar to the natural immunity, without the person concerned having to suffer from disease or suffer more than a minumum of discomfort or reaction. The greater the care taken to control the quality of vaccines, the minimal is the risk of immunisation. Vaccines have played an important role in the control and conquest of several diseases such as

diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, tuberculosis and typhoid. Their use on a mass scale in preventing disease, and fighting epidemics have certainly resulted in reducing the morbidity and also mortality. Vaccination is based on the use of micro organisms or their products in formulations that can induce protection with the minimal risk of causing the specific disease or general discomfort to the recipients.

The expanded programme of immunisation has been introduced throughout the state, since November 1979. Immunisation services are extended through primary health centres, and sub-centres in the rural areas and through hospitals and maternity and child welfare centres in the urban areas.

Vaccines are distributed to the peripherals, after ensuring adequate cold chain facilities, (This is a system followed by keeping the various vaccines in coolers, in order to maintain them in a potent stage) because cold chain systems are most essential for maintaining immunologicals. These services are rendered in the primary health centres of Kanniyakumari district by the medical officers, divisional health inspectors, health visitors, health assistants and vaccinators, according to the time schedule fixed for inducting various vaccines. Pregnant mothers are also given doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine during the later half of their pregnancy. The immunisation performance in the district in the years 1981-82 to 1987-88 is given below.

Performence under Immunisation Programme in Kanniyakumari District

Sl. No. (1)	Vaccine (2)	1981-82 (3)	1982-83 (4)	1983-84 (5)	1984-85 (6)	1985-86 (7)	1986-87 (8)	1987-88 (9)	Total (10)
				(No. of beneficiaries)					
1.	Polio	No programme		30864	32757	41220	34019	39531	178391
2.	DPT	18324	17780	33238	38940	41220	20259	41761	211522
3.	DT	19974	20863	28349	27761	187759	51693	43855	380254
4.	TT (EM)	12848	13869	21595	15404	19238	28874	36918	158746
5.	TT (10 years)	2677	NIL	2795	15767	195112	27698	25775	94224
6.	TT (16 years)	1658	NIL	1980	16041	13005	27448	18589	78721
7.	TA (5-6)	4962	17095	21416	52411	26334	5254	18947	146419
8.	Measles	Rotárians	6983	193	NIL	NIL	NIL	33955	41131
9.	BCG	–	–	–	–	33806	26221	26473	86500
10.	FST (L)	56772	12508	26841	57413	32166	20651	39997	232824
11.	FST (S)	23600	33238	27940	37579	64956	21522	83417	248832
12.	Vit. (A)	56892	39102	27893	56247	160190	61480	129013	530827

EM – Expectant mothers

TA – Typhoid

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CHAPTER - 17

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

The present Kanniyakumari district was carved out of the then Travancore-Cochin State in 1956. The social upliftment in the State of Travancore-Cochin was mainly focussed on the evils of drinking. Many legislations were brought out in this regard. A regulation was passed as early as 1878-79, to regulate prohibition in this State. In 1948, prohibition was introduced on an experimental basis in the taluks of Agasthiswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. Finding it to be a success, the Travancore-Cochin Prohibition Act of 1950 was passed. Simultaneously, the government bestowed its attention to the advancement of backward communities. So policies were drawn up and implemented with the help of some field staff, but not much of a widespread impact was there. The advantages gained by the backward communities were normal. The actual thrust, therefore, on social services could be visibly seen only after 1956 (i.e.) after the merger of Kanniyakumari area with Tamil Nadu.

To speak of social services, generally, it can be said that each and every function of the legislation of the government is aimed at the welfare of the society. Social services are the services that reach the people, particularly the poor and the needy, instantly, such as measures for labour welfare, women welfare, and schemes for the advancement of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward communities etc.

Labour Welfare : The organised industrial labour as we know it today, was practically non-existent in Kanniyakumari district area (formerly part and parcel of Travancore-Cochin State) till the beginning of this century. Working class at that time was construed as agricultural labourers only, but with India became Independent in 1947, the situation changed, and Industries gained ground. The working class which denoted solely the agricultural labourers had necessarily become to mean industrial workers also. So it has become indispensable on the part of the government to protect the interests of the labourers and evince interest in their welfare. So, many a legislation was enacted, e.g., the Workmen's Compensation Act 1926, the Trade Unions Act 1926, the Payment of Wages Act 1936, the Employment of Children Act 1938, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946, the Tamil Nadu Shops Establishment Act 1947, the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, the Factories

Act 1948, the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Plantations Labour Act 1951, the Motor Transport Workers Act 1961, the Payment of Bonus Act 1965, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments Act 1958 and the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Fund Act 1972.

In the erstwhile Tranvancore-Cochin, State (of which Kanniyakumari district was part and parcel) Labour Welfarė was entrusted to the district magistrates and the medical officers, who made periodical inspections of the factories in their respective jurisdictions and submitted reports to government regarding the arrangements for ventilation, sanitation and preventive measures taken against accidents.

Meanwhile the progressive labour legilsation in the British Indian Provinces had its impact on the Travancore Legislative Council which led to the passing of the Factories Act V of 1914 more or less on the lines of the British Indian Act XII of 1911.[1]

When the Kanniyakumari district area was merged with the Madras State, labour welfare in the district came under the purview of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras as in the case of the rest of the districts in the State. The commissioner was assisted by labour officers, inspectors of factories, inspectors of labour and inspectors of plantations. There was a labour officer at Nagercoil for the district, who was the conciliation officer, under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947.

Of the three assistant inspectors of labour, two were stationed at Nagercoil and the remaining one at Thuckalai under the administrative control of the inspector of labour at Tirunelveli. There was also one assistant inspector of factories at Nagercoil, who worked under the inspector of factories, Tirunelveli. For better implementation of the Factories Act and the allied labour enactments which aim at better working conditions such as health, safety measures in factories and welfare amenities for the factory workers, the deputy chief inspector of factories, Tirunelveli, inspector of factories Tirunelveli, assistant inspector of factories, Tirunelveli and medical officer (factories) Tirunelveli are the authorities.[2]

The Plantations Labour Act which ensures better working conditions, health and welfare amenities of the labourers, is enforced by the inspector of plantations at Nagercoil. There is also a medical officer (plantations) at Nagercoil who is responsible for medicare. Industrial disputes are dealt with by the assistant commissioner of labour,

(conciliation), stationed at Nagercoil. Other labour welfare acts which are non-technical are enforced by the inspector of labour, Tuticorin and his field staff consisting of two deputy inspectors of labour and seven assistant inspectors of labour. As regards women workers the Equal Remuneration Act and the Maternity Benefit Act come into play. Another social evil is the exploitation of child labour. The officials of the labour department have a watchful eye and bring the offenders to book. During 1985, twenty five managements were prosecuted for having employed children.

Labour welfare schemes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board.

Tamil Nadu Labour Fund Act 1972 : This act provides for the constitution of a fund for the welfare of labour. An employee, who has worked for not less than 30 days in a calendar year is covered by this act, and he has to contribute Rs.2/- per annum, while the employer in respect of each such employee contributes Rs.4/- per annum. Besides, the government also sanction a matching grant of Rs.2/- per employee. This amount is credited to the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board and spent towards implementation of labour welfare measures. In this district alone the approximate number of employees coming under the purview of this act as on December 1986 was 49172.

Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board : [3] This board was constituted in the year 1973, with the Minister of Labour as its Chairman. The board has formulated a series of welfare measures for the industrial workers which are highlighted below

Labour Welfare Centres : Three centres are functioning at Nagercoil, Kulasekaram and Lower Kodayar in the district. The women dependents of the employees are imparted training in tailoring for a period of 12 months during which a monthly stipend of Rs.60/- is paid. A kinder garten school is also run by this board in the labour welfare centre situated at Nagercoil.

Plantation Labour Housing Scheme : This scheme envisages assistance by way of subsidised loans to planters to construct houses of their own. The rates of subsidy are 37.5 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs.4000/- per tenement. A large number of plantation labourers in the district stand benefited by this scheme.

Proposals for the construction of a TB hospital in the district : The government have a proposal to construct a 30 bedded TB hospital at Asaripallam for the benefit of the workers.

Compensation for Accidents : The factory inspectors inspect the factories periodically and advice the managements to provide safety measures as prescribed under the factories act. Failure to comply with the safety measures the management make themselves liable for prosecution. Training the labourers on safety and conducting seminars to highlight the importance of industrial safety are part of the programme launched by this department. During 1985, prosecutions were launched against five managements for failure to comply with the regulations. The workmen's compensation act provides for compensations to the victims of accidents which range from minor injuries to serious injuries and loss of life also. The quantum of compensation is in proportion to the nature of disablement suffered by the labourer. The deputy commissioner of labour, Tirunelveli is the Tribunal. In 1985, compensation to the tune of Rs. 3.17 lakh was paid.

There are the major industrial establishments like Kanniyakumari District Co-operative Mills, Aralvoimozhi, and the Nagammal Mills, Nagercoil which go a little further in the matter of welfare of the employees, They provide good canteen, rest and refreshment rooms, uniforms and co-operative thrift societies. These amenities are well received by the workers.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes : One of the guarantees offered by the Constitution of India is "equality in status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual." The government are therefore, committed to the society to fulfil these obligations.

Prior to 1956, the developmental works for scheduled castes and backward classes were carried on by the Travancore–Cochin State, through the department for advancement of backward communities, through a field officer and an Inspector of colonization.[4] After the merger of the district with the Madras State in November 1956, a set up like, in other districts of this state then was established in Kanniyakumari district consisting of district welfare officer in the cadre of a deputy collector and other complementary staff. The district welfare officer was responsible for the implementation of the welfare schemes at the district level. A district

welfare committee was constituted by the government consisting of both officials and non-officials of which the collector was the chairman and the district welfare officer as the secretary. The committee met once in a quarter to review the progress in the implementation of the scheme.

The first welfare measure to be introduced in the district after its merger was the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act, 1947. Even before this enactment a far reaching step was taken by the Travancore government in 1936 by issuing the temple entry proclamation by which the doors of the temples were thrown open to harijans. It is, therefore, needless to say that the present Kanniyakumari district area which was part and parcel of erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State was one step ahead in this direction much earlier to this act of 1947. This proclamation was preceded by a long drawn struggle for social reforms especially the eradication of untouchability. The backward classes suffered all kinds of depression at the hands of the caste Hindus which, therefore, affected them socially, economically and politically. Public places like temples, schools, roads, and wells were out of bounds for them. They could not gain entry even into public offices. However, it was during the reign of Rani Lakshmi Bai (1924-31) the depressed people of the state, who won the support of a section of the Hindus (with forward ideas) clamoured for throwing open the public places to the untouchables. Dr. M.E. Naidu and others took active part in promoting the interests of the backward classes in the Travancore State. A demonstration was organised in Vaikkam demanding the right to use all the roads leading to Vaikkam temple. Thus the orthodox Hindus vehemently opposed in the name of religion, lest that, the temple would be polluted.

A satyagraha was organized at Vaikkam in which there was active participation of the large number of people of Kanniyakumari district. Simultaneously an agitation was organised in the state legislature to focus the attention of the government on the need for removal of disparity among Hindus and the so called untouchables. As a result, a resolution to the effect that the temple and its approach roads at Vaikkam should be thrown open to the untouchables was introduced in the Travancore Legislative Council, which however met defeat by a majority of one vote. But this defeat did not dampen the cause and so the agitation continued unabated. The movement took the support of the Dravida Kazhagam leader Thiru E.V. Ramasamy Naicker and in fact the movement conferred the name "Vaikkam Veerar" on him. Meanwhile, Mahatma Gandhi visited

the state and made them see reason, to effect the roads thrown open to the backward classes.

Later, the agitation spread to other parts of the district to throw open the temple at Suchindram to all Hindus. Finally in 1956, all the temples in Travancore State including those in Kanniyakumari district were made accessible to all Hindus by the temple entry proclamation. Article 17 of the Indian Constitution also prohibits untouchability in any form and also declared untouchability an offence under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, by the Government of India.

The better part of any proclamation is its implementation for which awareness among the public is quite necessary, and to bring about this, four deputy sevaks were specially appointed in this district for propaganda. To set right the scales named 'status' which titled in favour of the forward communities, the government set out ways and means to erase the disparity.

To implement the schemes, the revenue set up in the districts was reorganised in 1974. The functions and duties of the district welfare officer were bifurcated and an adi dravidar welfare officer solely for adi dravidar welfare and a district backward classes welfare officer exclusively for the backward classes welfare were appointed in the cadre of deputy collector.[5] Both the welfare officers work under the direct supervision of the collectors of the respective districts and controlled by the heads of department, viz. the director of adi dravidar and tribal welfare and the director of backward classes. The same pattern emerged in Kanniyakumari district also. In the following paragraphs the activities of these two departments are discussed.

Adi-Dravidar Welfare : As per the 1981 census, the population of the district is 14,23,399, out of which the adi-dravidar population is 60,173 and the scheduled tribes is 6,358 which works out to 4.2 per cent and 0.45 per cent respectively of the district's total population. The avocation of the adi-dravidar and the scheduled tribes are mostly agriculture and the rest are workers in the rubber plantations. There are 341 adi-dravidar colonies. The scheduled tribes (i.e.,) kani community settlement are 47 which are in the reserve forest areas of Vilavancode and Kalkulam Taluks. The forest department has on the whole allotted 1259 hectares of land at the rate of 5 acres per kani family for agricultural purposes subject to the condition that the lands should not be sold or

alienated. These lands have been allotted free of lease, rent or tax, as the case may be.

The rate of literacy in Kanniyakumari district is high which includes the adi dravidars also. It is seen that 50 per cent of adi-dravidars are educated. So the problem here in the case of adi-dravidars is to fit in the educated youth of the community in suitable jobs.

The self-employment scheme through Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment Programme (TRYSEM) has to a certain extent solved this problem. With a view to accelerate the pace of the socio-economic development of adi-dravidars the concept of special component plan was introduced in 1980-81, with the object of raising the living standards of the adi-dravidars such as providing basic amenities like drinking water facilities, electricity, health care, schooling and communications. As a first step during the current plan period, 50 per cent of the adi-dravidar families will receive assistance which will enable them to rise above the poverty line.

Education : As explained earlier, the district holds a unique position as regards literacy is concerned. The Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department runs 7 residential schools and 14 hostels in the district. The residential schools are located at Pechipparai, Vazhayadhuvayal, Pathukani, Manalodai, Orunooramvayal, Chitramkodu and Udayadi. The details of the hostels may be seen in table-1.

Table – 1

Sl. No. (1)	*Name of the Hostel (2)*	*Location (3)*
1	Government College Boys' Hostel	Nagercoil
2	Government College Girls' Hostel	Nagercoil
3	Government Boys' Hostel	Nagercoil
4	Government Girls' Hostel	Nagercoil
5	Government Boys' Hostel	Bhoothapandy
6	Government Boys' Hostel	Thuckalay
7	Government Boys' Hostel	Kuzhithurai
8	Government Girls' Hostel	Marthandam

(1)	(2)	(3)
9	Government Girls' Hostel	Kanniyakumari
10	Government Boys' Hostel	Arumanai
11	Government Girls' Hostel	Arumanai
12	Government Tribal Girls' Hostel	Pechipparai
13	Governemnt Tribal Girls' Hostel	Pathukani
14	Government Industrial Boys' Hostel	Nagercoil

The total number of students benefited by the hostels during 1986-87 was 697. Trained graduate teachers are in-charge of the hostels of college boys and college girls, while the other hostels are manned by secondary grade teachers.

These hostels do not charge either for boarding or for lodging. The tuition, and other special fees payable by scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students in the pre-matric classes are reimbursed by the government. The post-matric students are sanctioned Government of India scholarships, ranging from Rs.1067/- to Rs.1820/- for hosteliers and Rs.557/- to Rs.1125/- for day scholars.[7] From 1982-83 to 1987-88, a sum of Rs.58.99 lakh has been spent towards this purpose which has benefited 25,433 students. In addition, for deserving post-matric students loan scholarship ranging from Rs.500 to Rs.900 are also made available by the Tamil Nadu government. This loan is recoverable in easy instalments, after the loanee starts earning or after the expiry of three years from the date of sanction of the loan, whichever is earlier. An amount of Rs.1.48 lakh has been disbursed as loan scholarship to 104 students, from 1982 to 1988. The number of pre-matric and post-matric scholarship beneficiaries in the district and the amount spent during the years may be seen in table- 2.

Table – 2

Year (1)		No. of pre-matric Scholarship beneficiaries (2)	Amount spent by the government (3)
1981-82	..	24738	311408
1982-83	..	25695	359310
1983-84	..	22810	375000
1984-85	..	27193	723509
1985-86	..	-	-

(1)		(2)	(3)
1986-87	..	11626	168526
1987-88	..	12822	253323

Post-Matric Scholarship Beneficiaries.

Year *(1)*		*No. of post-matric scholarship beneficiaries* *(2)*	*Amount spent by the government* *(3)*
1981-82	..	6289	1113475
1982-83	..	6354	1238090
1983-84	..	12777	1230745
1984-85	..	1952	1112584
1985-86	..	2043	1168327
1986-87	..	934	16842
1987-88	..	1373	1132266

Employment and Economic Advancement : With a view to improve the standard of living of adi-dravidars and scheduled tribes, the following schemes are being implemented under the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Agriculture :

Distribution of cart & bullocks : According to this scheme a medium term loan of Rs.5,000/- is arranged through the village cooperative agricultural credit society or primary land development bank or the commercial banks for the purchase of bullock cart and a pair of bullocks. A subsidy of Rs.1,666/- is being released against this loan. The scheme for the supply of cart and bullocks has been very successful.

Construction of Cattle Shed : This scheme was introduced in this district during the year 1978-79. The cost of construcion of a cattle shed is Rs.3,000/-. This loan is available to the farmers on medium and long term basis through the land development bank or central cooperative bank or commercial banks. A subsidy of Rs.1,000/- is being released against the loan.

Animal Husbandry :

Distribution of Milch Animals : Distribution of milch animals has been taken up by this agency. The cost of an animal for the purpose of subsidy is limited to Rs. 2,500/-, out of which 25 per cent in the case of small farmers and 33.33 per cent in the case of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers are treated as subsidy.

Supply of pigs (Yorkshire/Herkshire improved varieties) : The demand for pork is quite good in the district. So some of the farmers in selected areas have taken to piggery as subsidiary occupation, and they find it lucrative. As per this scheme a unit of three sows and one boar to each farmer is supplied. The cost per unit is Rs. 2,200/- which is arranged as a medium term loan through primary agricultural credit societies or nationalised banks.

Distribution of goats (Surti breed) : This scheme was started in 1981-82 under which a unit consisting of four she goats and one he goat are supplied to each farmer. The cost per unit as per the market rate is Rs.3,600/-. The amount is arranged as a medium term loan through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies or Commercial Banks. For small farmers and marginal farmers the subsidy amount is 25 per cent and 33.33 per cent respectively.

Supply of cycles to fishermen : Members of the fishermen in the coastal areas transport their catches in headloads and by cycles for marketing. While the vendors in the interior areas will have to necessarily make a trip to the coastal areas to procure, transportation of fish by cycles saves time and facilitates easier and quicker disposal. Hence this scheme is much welcome by both the coastal and inland fishermen. Under this scheme, a medium term loan of Rs.750/- is sanctioned to each fisherman, who is a member of the Inland Fishermen Cooperative Society. The loan is distributed through commercial banks and 33.33 per cent of the loan is treated as subsidy.

Other Schemes

Bee-keeping : The other ongoing programme in the district is extending loan to farmers who take to bee keeping. Two bee keeping societies, one at Kulasekaram and the other at Marthandam, provide necessary technical assistance to the farmers. Nationalised banks also provide a medium term loan of Rs.1,700/- each.

Village Industries

Aid to Black Smiths : A medium term loan of Rs.1800/- is distributed to an eligible black smith towards purchase of equipments like hammer, anvil, bellows etc. and for the construction of a work shed.

Aid to Carpenters : Each eligible carpenter gets a medium term loan of Rs.1,000/- for the purchase of appliances, like mallet (wooden hammer) chisel, hammer, saw etc., and for the construction of a work shed.

Aid to Dhobies : The dhobies are offered a medium term loan of Rs. 1,500/- towards the purchase of ironing table, iron box and other accessories.

Aid to Potters : A medium term loan of Rs. 1,000/- is released to potters for the purchase of tools and equipments and for the setting up of kilns, etc.

Aid to Korai Mat Weavers : Under this scheme each farmer is provided with a medium term loan of Rs.500/-. For all the loans mentioned above 33.33 per cent is treated as subsidy.

Lime Industry : Sea shells are abundantly available in Kanniyakumari district. Shell lime is widely used for building purposes especially for white washing. A large number of people, especially residing in the coastal villages are engaged in this industry. The primary requirements for the establishment of this industry are a blower and a kiln for which Rs.3,000/- is given as loan by the government, to those who are engaged in this trade.

Petty Shop or Bunk Stall : For the establishment of a petty shop Rs.3,000/- is sanctioned as loan by the government. Many have availed this opportunity.

Supply of Mike Sets : Mike set as we all know is widely used in this district for all important functions in the villages. The set consists of an amplifier, a record player, two mikes, two horns and few metres of wire and a few lamps. For this purpose an amount of Rs.5,000/- is being sanctioned by the government.

Cycle Shop : Cycle is a layman's transport in towns and villages as well. A cycle shop with five cycles will be an easy means of ones livelihood. For those who wish to set up a cycle shop an amount of Rs.5000/- is sanctioned by the government. The details of the beneficiaries for the years 1982-85 may be seen in table- 3.

Table – 3

Sl. No. *Name of the Scheme*	*No. of beneficiaries* 1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
(1) *(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
I. Agriculture			
1. Work bullock	263	166	227
2. Cart bullock	102	39	54
3. Construction of cattle shed	73	22	19
4. Betelwine cultivation	17	1	–
II. Animal Husbandry			
1. Milch animal	506	228	504
2. Goats	31	146	149
3. Duckery	3	2	18
4. Pigs	–	–	4
III. Industry Service & Business			
1. Aid to barbers	7	16	15
2. Aid to dhobies	4	26	64
3. Bee-keeping	31	28	–
4. Korai mat weaving	44	6	–
5. Coir spinning works	24	12	5
6. Petty shops	18	35	–
7. Mike set	23	5	7
8. Lime industry	52	11	19
9. Cycle shops	17	10	23
10. Weavers	42	14	–
11. Palm leaf workers	45	208	286
12. Tailors	31	13	52
13. Carpenters	–	2	–
14. Basket making	–	1	2
15. Potters	–	6	–

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
16.	Tappers	–	30	–
17.	Cobblers	–	2	–
18.	Sprayers	–	22	–
19.	Vegetable vendors	–	2	32
20.	Wet grinder	–	–	11
21.	Fish vendor	–	–	9
22.	Idiappam vendor	–	–	1
23.	Provision store	–	–	27
24.	Hand cycle	–	–	38
25.	Tea stall	–	–	2
26.	Mason	–	–	1
IV.	**Fisheries**			
1.	Cycle to Inland Fishermen		16	79

Other Developmental Programmes : To provide employment to schedule caste/schedule tribe, small scale and cottage industries have been set up under the special component plan, cluster development programme and under Khadi and Village Industries Programme. The details of the schemes are given below :

Special Component Plan : Under this plan two weavers cooperative societies are functioning in this district at Melakalungadi and the other at Thalakulam. These societies provide employment opportunities for about hundred persons. Apart from this, a brick chamber unit at Aralvoimozhi, mat and matting works, industrial co-operative society at Manavilai are functioning, exclusively for the welfare of the adi-dravidars.

Further, Tamilnadu Adi-dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) has also released subsidy to the tune of Rs.2.10 lakh to the Deputy Registrar (Dairying) so as to provide milch animals to the poor adi-dravidars. Fifty per cent of the loan offered to the beneficiaries is treated as subsidy.

Cluster Development Programmes : Under this programme, 14 industrial activities and 2 individual schemes have been taken up by the government, which are being implemented in Agasthiswaram block at a cost of Rs.68.39 lakh for setting up industries such as cotton spinning, nepali loom, hand made paper, handloom fabrics, mat weaving, brick

chamber, palm leaf units, coir mats, coir twisting, stone crushing, cane products, yarn dying, leather tanning, shell lime processing, dairy and petty shop. To run the industries training is imparted. The Executive Engineer, TAHDCO, Tirunelveli has been entrusted with the construction of permanent work sheds. The construction of work sheds for cotton spinning at Karkadu, Illupaiyadi and Sankaranpudur has been completed and the training has commenced. Under this scheme, 941 adi-dravidar families are benefited.

Schemes Implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Board :– This board runs a hand made paper workers co-operative society at Kannancheri, which is in operation since 1959. The bamboo workers co-operative society at Mullaipoonkani is another venture solely for the benefit of the adi-dravidars. The youth trained in these societies are advised to take the lead by enlisting themselves first as members and organise co-opoerative societies. The board also provides finanical and technical assistance to organise such societies. The performance of these societies during the past years may be seen in table 4

Table – 4

The performance of the Handmade Paper Workers Co-operative Society

Year	*Production*	*Sales*	*Employment*	
			Full time	*Part time*
1982-83	102554	77825	20	40
1983-84	153269	91384	20	65
1984-85	163901	115689	20	90
1985-86	165798	122771	11	–
1986-87	145754	98699	11	–
1987-88	165874	114594	10	–

Performance of the Cane and Bamboo Workers Co-operative Society

Year	*Production*	*Sales*	*Employment*	
			Full time	*Part time*
1982-83	52140	34510	25	20
1983-84	75691	74169	30	25
1984-85	89758	64081	35	30
1985-86	55061	39032	12	15

Year	*Production*	*Sales*	*Employment*	
			Full time	*Part time*
1986-87	35447	37407	10	-
1987-88	30365	24340	10	14

Specific schemes to train scheduled caste and scheduled tribe youths in various trades like motor mechanic, carpentry, electrician etc. Under IRDP, TRYSEM and TAHDCO schemes, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe youths are trained in I.T.I. or in other recognised institutions for a period of six months in various trades. During training, a stipend of Rs.125/- per month is paid for the purchase of raw materials. The detailş of the scheme and the number of beneficiaries during the last three years may be seen in table-5

Under the IRDP and TAHDCO programme members are encouraged to start small scale industries, for which loans are arranged through banks by the District Industries Centre. Of this loan one third is treated as subsidy, subject to the maximum of Rs.3,000/-.

Table-5

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Sl.no	year	No.of trainees
1.	1982-83	649
2.	1983-84	708
3.	1984-85	170
4.	1985-86	274
5.	986-87	277
6.	1987 88	317

Training the Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1. Match Industries	—	260	—
2. Dairying	40	21	—
3. Cane and bamboo basket making	55	17	—
4. Banana fibre article making	97	97	—
5. Bee-keeping	54	27	—
6. Korai mat weaving	25	—	—

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
7. Coir twisting	166	17	—
8. Coir mat and mattings	50	35	—
9. Arc & gas welding	14	—	—
10. Fitting and Turning	14	15	6
11. Simple wiring	28	22	12
12. Pump mechanism	21	13	—
13. Two wheeler mechanism	20	32	9
14. Composing & Binding	25	—	—
15. Auto mechanism	28	10	—
16. Sericulture	—	38	—
17. Mat making	—	25	—
18. Typing and Shorthand	—	—	34
19. Radio & Television repair	—	—	20
20. Television	—	—	16

TAHDCO Programmes

	1983-84	1984-85
1. Heavy Vehicle driving	4	14
2. Tailoring and embroidery	30	41
3. Electro plating	1	—
4. Welding and lathe grilling	5	—
5. Printing works	15	—

Housing Schemes. These schemes envisage provision of house sites to all landless adi-dravidar families so as to avoid overcrowding in the existing colonies. To this end suitable lands are acquired and house sites measuring three cents laid out and provided to eligible houseless families. The scheme is in operation since 1949 and as in 1988 as many as 174.09 acres of land have been acquired at a cost of Rs.21.64 lakhs, and house sites for 3634 families provided. The construction of houses is undertaken by the government itself in a phased programme. To

supplement various other house construction schemes such as (a) construction of houses by the Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) (b) Construction of houses under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) (c) Construction of houses under Rural Labour Employment Programme (NREP), (d) construction of houses under Rural Housing Scheme (RHS) are also there.

All these schemes are solely intended for the rural areas. Under TAHDCO, NREP and RLEGP, houses are constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.6,000/- in the plains and at Rs.9000/- per house in hill areas respectively. Under the Rural Housing Scheme (RHS) an interest free loan of Rs.4,500/- per house is sanctioned, out of which an amount of Rs.1000/- is treated as subsidy on completion of the house. Prior of 1974, 48 houses were constructed under the Jayanthi Scheme. From 1974-75 to 1980-81, 776 houses under the Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing Scheme, 681 houses under RLEGP, and 177 houses under NREP were constructed. Under the scheme of TAHDCO during 1984-85, 214 houses and under RHS as many as 6446 houses have been constructed in the district. As regards urban areas the position is that the Nagercoil Municipality has acquired lands in Edalakudi, Kulathucheri and West Kalangudi to make available house sites to 102 eligible houseless adi-dravidars.

Eradication of Untouchability. Untouchability is a thing of the past. With so many social reforms and the changing outlook of the people, in general, this evil has no place in society. This can be attributed to the high rate of literacy in the district. In order to eradicate this evil and evoke people's consciousness, intercaste marriages are encouraged in the district. But, there are still a few who belong to the old school who refuse to come out of their cocoons. To lure them to accept the reality, the government every year during the last week of the month of January celebrates the "Untouchability Week" when prizes are distributed to the villages for their outstanding performance for the cause of eradication of untouchability. Prizes are also awarded to the neatly maintained adi-dravidar colonies in each taluk. During 1985-86, Anandhapuram and Mangodu bagged the first and second prizes, for their performance in eradication of untouchability. During the same year, Narikulam, Vembadi, Sivanthamannu and Sangurutti adi-dravidar colonies were adjudged the

best maintained colonies. A special police force, for the Protection of Civil Rights of the adi-dravidars is functioning in the district. Villages which face such problems are visited by the special police force, once in a fortnight to study the situation and to work out ways and means of solving them. If necessary, effective bandobust is arranged there as a preventive measure. In this district, ill-feelings between the adi-dravidars and caste hindus do not persist and hence such incidents do not however occur.

Backward Classes Welfare Department : The welfare schemes implemented are intended for the educational as well as economic upliftment of the backward classes.

Concessions to Backward Classes - Economic Front : This department runs two training centres i.e., the Fibre Industrial Training Centre at Kuzhithurai, and the Rattan Industrial Training Centre at Thuckalay, perceived to improve the rural economy of the backward classes in the area.[8] They train 40 rural women annually in the manufacture of fibre and rattan articles, and during which period they are paid Rs.30/- per month as stipend.

Supply of tools to barbers : Irrespective of caste and community any individual who is a barber by profession is entitled for a set of tools worth Rs.135/- under this scheme. Upto December 1986, as many as 382 persons have been benefited.

Provision of House Sites : During 1981, government have ordered that persons belonging to Narikkurava, Navithars, Oddars and Vannar communities, who are poor and who do not possess house-sites of their own be provided with house sites at the rate of three cents per family. But in this district, vannars are considered as belonging to the scheduled Caste.[9] As regards narikkuravas and oddars there are no representations at all and so the only community that stands benefited by this government order is the navithars. Among them, 93 beneficiaries have been identified till the end of 1986. To extend this facility to the rest, the government have taken up acquisition of 1.75 acres of land in Thiruvithancode and 2.3 acres of land at Marungoor.

Education :– Apart from the economic angle the Government is equally interested in the educational upliftment of the backward classes as well. Prior to 1977-78, scholarships (in cash) were confined to prematric students. But in the year 1977-78 this system has been dispensed with, and instead, books are supplied to the eligible backward

class students. The details of pre-matric scholarships may be seen in table 6 below :

Table 6 : Pre-matric Scholarship

Year (1)	No.of beneficiaries (2)	Expenditure (3)
1980-81	5317	—
1981-82	2815	—
1982-83	3115	—
1983-84	5954	61629
1984-85	6927	122873
1985-86	6978	141075
1986-87	1653	60756

Post-matric scholarships are also awarded to the eligible students belonging to backward classes and denotified tribes, but in the case of the denotified community, the representation is nil. Hence the scholarship which covers cost of books, tuition fees and examination fees is confined to the backward classes only. Residential scholarships are also awarded to the hostellers. The details may be seen in table 7 below.

Table 7 Post Matric Scholarships

Year (1)	No.of beneficiaries (2)	Amount spent Rs. (3)
1980-81	4506	827927
1981-82	4630	725321
1982-83	4816	804672
1983-84	6498	1140001
1984-85	8704	1381853
1985-86	8966	1539470
1986-87	7849	1611435

In Kanniyakumari district, the Backward Classes Welfare Department runs on the whole, thirteen hostels for the backward classes students, of which eight are for high school girls, two for high school boys and three for college girls. The particulars may be seen in table 8.

Table-8 Hostels run by the Backward Classes Department

S.No. 1.	Name of the Hostel 2.		Location 3.
1.	College Girls Hostel	-	Agasthiswaram
2	College Girls Hostel	-	Kuzhithurai
3.	College Girls Hostel	-	Nagercoil
4.	Govt. High School Boys Hostel	-	Aralvoimozhi
5.	Govt. High School Boys Hostel	-	Pottety
6.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Boothapandy
7.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Colachel
8.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Kulasekaram
9.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Thuckalay
10.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Karungal
11.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	'Azhagappapuram
12.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Eraniel
13.	Govt. High School Girls Hostel	-	Pudukkadai

During 1983-84, the number of boarders in these hostels were 596. In 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1986-87 the number of boarders were 624, 605 and 580 respectively.

Award of prizes to the best students : This department has introduced award of prizes for students belonging to backward classes, who secure district level ranks in ESLC, SSLC and H.Sc. examinations. The district level rank holders among the boys and girls in higher secondary examination are awarded a prize of Rs. 500 each. For the SSLC and ESLC district level rank holders three prizes of Rs.150, Rs.100, and Rs.50 have been awarded.

Social Welfare Department :

The civilisation of a society is measured by the love and care it bestows on its women and children. As far as our society is concerned "woman" is its backbone. The government are deeply conscious of their responsibilities towards this and as a result a number of schemes aimed at the betterment of women folk who need sustenance are put into operation which are health care, followed by provision of shelter,

imparting education of skills and provision of gainful employment to poor women.

In Kanniyakumari district the schemes were initiated in 1956. This set up (i.e.,) the department of women's welfare, was restructured and renamed as Social Welfare Department in 1972 and carries out planned welfare schemes. Prior to 1972 the Assistant Women's Welfare Officer, Nagercoil was in over all charge of the district and was under the administrative control of the Director of Women's Welfare, Madras. Forming mathar sangams, conducting basic schools and care for the general welfare of women and children and the like were some of the main responsibilities of the women's welfare department. Since 1972 the department of social welfare continues the activities in the field of welfare schemes relating to women, children and the physically handicapped as in the past, apart from the new schemes that are formulated now and then. The District Social Welfare Officer is responsible for the implementation of the welfare schemes for women. A brief account of various such welfare schemes implemented by this department is as below.

Mahalir Mandrams: Cutting across barriers, may be social, economical etc., and bringing together women folk in the rural areas, create an atmosphere of mutual respect, create opportunities for understanding and prove their talents in a very constructive way which may help to build their economy by way of gainful employment especially to women who are not in a position to fend themselves etc., are the aims of these mahalir manrams. In this district 270 mahalir manrams are functioning each of which is headed by a convenor.[10] The Manrams conduct camps to train women in food preservation, hygiene, childcare, nutrition and cooking. babyshows and educational tours also form part of the programmes. The mahalir manrams are encouraged to undertake different types of economic activities. As an incentive, cash awards is given to the best mahalir manrams. Best of the mahalir manrams are selected by the District Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector every year. So far 46 manrams have bagged awards, since inception of the scheme.

Work Centres : Three tailoring work centres are run by this department, one each at Ramavarmapuram, Palugal and Viluvurkonam. Rural and urban women who are in the age group of 18-35 years receive training, for a period of one year. The Ramavarmapuram centre is exclusively run for the welfare of women belonging to backward classes,

while the other two are for the women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. As conveyance charges an amount of Rs.30/- per month is paid to each trainee.

Supply of text-books and note books for children of poor widows : This scheme was started in 1978-79 to benefit children of widows, whose family income is less than Rs.3000 per annum. Up to 1980-81, books were supplied to the elementary, middle and high school students. From 1981-88 onwards, this scheme has been extended to the students of the higher secondary classes also. So far 1560 students of this district have been benefited under this scheme.

Marriage assistance to the daughters of poor widows and orphan girls: It is evident that the destitute widows find it extremely difficult to arrange marriages of their daughters due to economic conditions. With a view to bale out such unfortunate women out of this situation government have formulated a new scheme by which assistance is extended to such destitute widows. As per the scheme, assistance can be rendered only in respect of one daughter and for which she can approach the Collector, who is the sanctioning authority. The Collector selects the individual and sanctions Rs.1000 per beneficiary. From 1985-86, this scheme has been extended to girls who have been orphaned also. Forty six such girls have been benefited till the end of July 1988.

Supply of sewing machines: This scheme envisages distribution of sewing machines to destitute widows and physically handicapped men and women in the age group of 20-40 years. This scheme is in force from 1975-76. Upto 1987-88 as many as 476 persons have been benefited.

Widow Remarriage : This scheme was introduced in 1975-76 with a view to encourage widow remarriages and also far the rehabilitation of widows in the age group of 18-30 years. These couples are presented a national savings certificate to the value of Rs.5000 by the government. The number of beneficiaries since 1977 to 1986 are 226.

Guidance Bureau : For the welfare of women, the scheme of setting up of Guidance Bureau was extended to this district in the year 1983-84. This Bureau run by the Social Welfare Department secures loan assistance through banks for women, especially who are destitutes, widows and economically weak, who venture for self-employment. The Guidance Bureau also assists in securing admissions to children of the destitute women in the orphanages run by government as well as private

voluntary institutions. They take up the problems of old age pensioners and others with the respective departments and get them settled. This bureau has been in a position to help as many as 5544 persons till 1988.

Welfare of the physically handicapped : Various schemes are implemented in the district for the welfare of the physically handicapped children and adults.

Scholarships to physically handicapped students : Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India have extended scholarship facilities to the handicapped students since 1981-82. The state government offers scholarships from i to viii standards, while the government of India provides scholarships from IX standard onwards. In this district scholarship has been sanctioned from 1987 to 1988 for 938 students by the state government to the tune of Rs.45,000/ while the governement of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.66,720/- for 773 students.

Distribution of bicycles, wheel chairs and hearing aids: In this district from 1983-86, 7 tricycles, 24 wheel chairs and 1271 hearing aids have been distributed through this department.

Assistance to handicapped towards self employment ventures : Most of the physically handicapped are identified in rural areas, who are mostly illiterates. Fitting them in salaried employment has proved to be a task. So, the Government of Tamil Nadu has come up with schemes like setting up of bunks as a means of self-employment. Bank Loans at differential rates of interest i.e. 4 per cent and a government subsidy upto Rs.500 per beneficiary is also arranged for setting up of bunks. This scheme is in operation since 1979. Up to 1986, about 496 physically handicapped persons have been settled like this. Also, those handicapped who could not be assisted otherwise for setting up of bunks are being rendered assistance by way of loan through banks at differential rates of interest towards gainful self employment, Government subsidy equivalent to the amount of loan subject to a maximum of Rs.1,000 per beneficiary is paid on receipt of funds.

Industrially trained handicapped who have registered their names in the employment exchanges on or before 17 April 1979 are placed as apprentices in various industrial establishments without any financial stress on the employer for a period of one year. During the training peirod the government pay Rs.150 as stipend per month stipulating the

condition that the candidate is absorbed as a regular worker in the establishment on completion of the apprenticeship. The unemployed blind with SSLC or ITI qualification, whose names are registered with the employment exchange, and whose names are in the live register of employment exchange for a continuous period of 3 years, are being paid Rs.50 per month, as unemployment allowance by the government.

Schools for the blind. Prior to 1979, the schools for the blind in the district functioned under the department of education. In 1979, the Social Welfare Department took over these schools. Each school admits 25 students every year. The schools provide education from the first to the fifth standards. There are five specially trained teachers and two non-teaching staff in each of the schools. The students are offered free hostel facilities, text books and two sets of uniforms per year. During 1986-87, about Rs.1.90 lakhs have been spent on the maintenance of these schools.

CHILD WELFARE

Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme : On 1 July 1982, Tamil Nadu Government introduced a scheme of historic significance for providing a nutritious free meal to lakhs of poor children in the age group of 2 to 10. At the stroke of 12 noon that day, 55.96 lakhs of children sat down in 20,747 child welfare centres and 32,470 elementary schools to partake the nutritious food served to them by the government. This colossal and unique venture which costs the exchequer more than Rs.100 crores per annum is expected to bring about a significant change not only in the health condition of the children but in the social environement itself, especially in the rural areas. The cost of a meal is 45 paise. The ingredients of the meal for children below four years is 80 grams of rice, 10 grams of dhal, 7 grams of oil and 50 grams of vegetables and condiments. For children above four years 100 grams of rice and 15 grams of dhal are given.

Under the old midday meals scheme, introduced during the chief ministership of late Thiru K. Kamaraj, only children studying in standards I to VIII were fed for 200 days in a year. While the present scheme, provides for feeding on all the 365 days in a year and has also brought into its fold, children in the age group of 2 to 5 also. The government bear the entire financial responsibility for the programme. Food articles required for this scheme are supplied by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies

Corporation. Earlier, Social Welfare Department was running 4343 child welfare centres throughout Tamil Nadu. In addition, 15501 centres have been opened so that each village has a feeding centre. Eighty five lakhs of children were given nutritious meals in the State during 1984. This programme is not only intended to appease the hunger of the children but also aims to build their health and character in which turn keep to mould them as responsible citizens.

In Kanniyakumari district, there are 803 child welfare centres, manned by 803 child welfare organisers and 1606 child welfare assistants. The children benefited are 58368. The grant sanctioned to Kanniyakumari district for the implementation of Nutritious Noon Meal Programme is Rs.1,48,82,074.

Integrated Child Development Services : It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in selective blocks of the state. It has been designed to deliver a package of services in an integrated manner to the vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating mothers as well. The package of services are supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, health education and health check up. The Integrated Child Development Services Project was started in 1983 by amalgamating the existing Nutritious noon meal programme centres. The benefits extended to children in the age group of 2 to 4 and below 2 years are by way of nutrition supplement. The number of children benefited under the above two categories are 2428 and 2034. CARE takes care of 1839 pregnant and lactating women.

Orphanages : The government orphanages one at Nagercoil since 22 August 1959 and the other at Thikkanamcode, since 20 August 1986 are functioning in the district. The orphanages at Nagercoil has a sanctioned strength of 250 children, while the other at Thikkanamcode has a sanctioned strength of 70 children. There is a place here for the children of ex-women convicts. The inmates are provided free food, shelter, clothing, books, note books, medical attention and developmental services of education. For each child a sum of Rs.60/- per month is spent towards boarding expenses. For the pupils sudying in I to VIII standards, an amount of Rs.35 for dress, Rs.20 for providing bedding materials, and Rs.25 for text books are spent. In the case of high school and higher secondary school students, Rs.90 and Rs.190 respectively towards supply of books are met with by government.

Old Age Pension : The government as a measure of social security have introduced the old age pension scheme with effect from 1 April 1962

to provide relief to aged persons, who have no means of subsistance. Destitute persons aged 65 years and above are eligible for this pension. There are also other Social Security Schemes which are described below :-

Old age pension for physically handicapped (PHP) : This scheme is in operation since 1974. The physically handicapped destitutes are eligible for this pension.

Old age pension to widows (WP) : This scheme is in force in the district from 1975. The destitute widows aged 40 years and above are eligible for pension.

Old age pension to agricultural labourers (ALP) : The scheme of granting pension to the destitute agricultral labourers is in implementation in the district since 15 March 1981. The destitute agricultural labourers aged 60 years and above are eligible for pension. The monthly pension under all the above schemes is Rs.35/- per head. In addition, they enjoy a free meal, and they are also given sarees, dhoties twice in a year. Weekly half a kilogram of rice per head is distributed free of cost. The sanctioned strength of old age pensioners under different categories, pension sanctioned and free rice distributed per mensem are given in the table below :-

Table

Position as on 30 April 1988

Sanctioned strength		*Pension disbursed per month @ Rs.35/*	*Quantity of rice distributed per month (in kgs.).*
Old age pension	2714	84990/-	10856
Destitute widows	1060	37100/-	4240
Physically handicapped	408	14280/-	1632
Agricultural labourers	1098	38430/-	4392
Destitute destered, widow's pension	45	1575/-	180
Total	5325	176375	21300

Pension to Freedom Fighters. Freedom fighters of the district are also awarded pension both by the Central and the State Government. The state pension scheme is operative since 1966, while the Central government's pension scheme to the freedom fighters came into force on 15 August 1972. The total beneficiaries are 53 (41 persons under central government pension and 12 under the State Government Pension).

Ex-servicemen's Welfare : The Department of Ex-servicemen's Welfare one of the departments under the government of Tamil Nadu, is responsible for the rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-servicemen and their dependants in the state. All welfare schemes for the beneift of ex-servicemen and their families are being implemented through the District Soldier's, Sailor's and Air-men's Boards located in the districts. The Directorate of Ex-servicemen's Welfare co-ordinates the activities of the District Soldiers' Sailors and Airmen's Boards. The district offices are headed by the assistant directors of ex-servicemen welfare. The Joint secretary to governement, public department is the ex-officio director of ex-servicemen's welfare.

The government of Tamil Nadu have constituted the Tamil Nadu Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board with the minister incharge of exservicemen as its chairman and various officials and non officials as members. The cost of maintenance of the directorate of ex-servicemen's welfare in the district is shared by government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India on 50:50 basis. The directorate is availing three separate funds namely (1) Tamil Nadu Ex-services Personal Benevolent Fund (2) Amalgamated Fund (3) Flag Day Fund, to render resettlement and rehabilitation assistance to ex-service men's population of Tamil Nadu. The aims and objectives of the funds are as follows:

Tamil nadu Ex-services Personnel Benevolent Fund. It is meant for rendering assistance to the Ex-servicemen and their dependants by means of various kinds of grants. The main source of income for the fund is the Flag Day Collection which is done every year. The Administration of the fund is controlled by a committee constituted for the purpose with Joint Secretary, Public (Ex-servicemen) Department, as its Chairman with three officials. Besides, three non-officials are nominated by Tamil nadu Soldiers Sailors and Air-men's Board.

Amalgamated Fund : It is a charitable fund and it caters to the needs of ex-servicemen and their dependants by way of sanctioning scholarships, annual maintenance grants to war widows, interest, subsidy for business loans drawn from banks, etc.

Flag Day Fund : The flag day is organised every year in the month of December and collections are made as per the policy and procedure laid down by the flag day organization committee presided over by the Governor of Tamil Nadu. On the flag day, contributions from the public are particularly solicited. Variable, as these contributions are, they add up to a significant sum even though the job of welfare demands a bigger budget. Tamil Nadu in common with the other states in the country, cause collections to be made on that day. The flag day collections are shared by the central and state Governments. Centre's share is administered by a managing committee, presided over by the Defence Minister. The State's share of the flag day collection is taken to the corpus of the Tamil Nadu Ex-services Personnel Benevolent Fund.

Circumstances under which district office was opened and year of its inception in the district : Immediately after the second world war the number of defence services personnel being demobilised was large and hence arose the need to resettle them in civil life and to maintain es-sprit-decorps of defence personnel. They were to be given an opportunity to get together not only to maintain simultaneously the es-sprit-de corps, but also to exchange information. With this end in view the Government of Tamil nadu (in their government order No.4607, Labour Department dated 05-10-1960) sanctioned the formation of a separate District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board in Kanniyakumari district.

A "Special employment cell" to sponsor ex-servicemen candidates for reserved vacancies in Central Government/State Government and Public Sector Undertakings has come into function with effect from 1 April 1982. In the year 1986, 36 ex-servicemen were placed in various jobs in the Central and the State Governments through this special employment cell. The "bank loan interest subsidy scheme" specially for ex- servicemen was introduced with effect from 1 January 1978 in conjunction with a large number of banks. In the year 1986, 26 ex-servicemen availed these loan facilities from the banks to the tune of Rs.25,300/- As a measure of rehabilitaiton of the disabled jawans, war widows and deserving ex-servicemen under self employment scheme, 12 bunks have

been established in Kanniyakumari district. As many as 314 ex-servicemen acted as "special police officers" for the unique one day simultaneous election for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly in December 1984. Four hundred and seventy six ex-servicemen were once again deployed as special police officers for the panchayat elections in Kanniyakumari district in Februrary 1986.

An ex-Servicemen Engineering Co-operative Society is functioning at Nagercoil with 103 members with a paid up share capital of Rs.80,550/-. The main object of the Society is to provide gainful employment to the ex-servicemen members. The society deals with the purchase and allotment of autorickshaws, distribution of cement and sale of automobile spare parts. Kulasekaram Ex-servicemen Land Colonisation Co-operative Society was started on 7 March 1948. There are 199 members with a paid up share capital of Rs.0.2 lakhs. The government have assigned 500 acres of land to this society.

Steps taken to promote the activities in the District :

Land to an extent of 30.87 cents in Vadeeswaran Village, Nagercoil has been acquired at a cost of Rs. 3.47 lakhs for the construction of Jawan's Bhavan and district ex-services centre at Nagercoil. The Jawans Bhavan will provide a shopping complex while the district ex-services centre will provide facilities for lodging and recreation to ex-servicemen. It will also provide accommodation for the office of the assistant director of ex-servicemen's welfare. At present in Kanniyakumari district, the assistant director (secretary of the district soldiers, sailors and airmen's board) implements all welfare schemes relating to ex-servicemen. A separate tailoring unit to train the women dependants of ex-servicemen has been started in the district. This tailoring unit offers a one year course, which leads to a certificate examination conducted by the Department of Employment and Training and a 6 months course which imparts fundamental working knowledge in tailoring. In addition a typewriting techinical institute has also been started for the ex-servicemen and their dependants.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments : The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department controls the following public trusts and endowments, the objectives of which are to feed and distribute butter milk to the pilgrims.

1. Annadhana Trust (Annex) Rameswarar Vinayagar Temple - Akkarai.
2. Thoovadhasi Trust - Ashramam.
3. Annadhana Endowment (Annex) Subramanyaswamy Temple, Thiruchendur - Kottar.
4. Sri Parangudasa Subramanya Dharmalayam - Kottaram.
5. Sri Gurubhooja Trust - Kulasekaranpudur.
6. Ramajaya Paripoorna matt - Thanneer Pandal Trust - Lakshmi-puram.
7. Sri Kavadi Trust - Suchindram.
8. Sri Karthigai Astami Trust - Suchindram.
9. Sri Kavadi Trust - Karkadu.
10. Thoovadasi Trust - Vishnupuram.
11. Sri Thaneer Matt Trust - Mandharampudur.
12. Brahamana Bhojana (Annadhana) Endowment (Annex) Madhu-sudhanaperumal Temple - Parakkai.
13. Sri Thoovadhasi Trust - Kariyamanickapuram.
14. Panguni Uttaram second and fourth day Festival Endowment - Parakkai.
15. Panguni Uttaram third day Trust - Parakkai.
16. Thoovadasi Trust - Vembanur.
17. Vishwanatha Vishalakshi Ambal Thoovadasi Trust - Kottai.
18. Thoovadasi Trust - Mahadeva Temple - Thaliyal.
19. Anuvatthi Kulam Matt *alias* Chonachchetti Matt-Nagercoil.
20. Arulmigu Senbagaththadi Nandavana (flower garden) Garland Endowment-Azhagiya Pandiapuram.
21. Arulmigu Arasadi Kandan Sasta Garland Endowment-Antharapuram.

22. Arulmigu Siraimeetaperumalswamy Velayudha Endowment (Annex) Kumarar Temple - Siramadam.

23. Eighth day Festival Endowment (Annex) Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple - Tiruchendur - Thazhakudi.

24. Arulmigu Azhagamman Temple, Thiruvadhirai Endowment - Thazhakkudi.

25. Arulmigu Thiruvazhimarbhan Temple, Adi Swathi Trust - Thiruppathisaram.

26. Arulmigu Karthiga Asthami Trust (Annex) Mahadeversamy Temple - Gnalam.

27. Arulmigu Agraharam, Thoovadasi Trust - Thiruppathisaram.

28. Arulmigu Thiruvazhimarbhaswamy Seventh day Endowment - Thiruppathisaram.

29. Arulmigu Annadhana Trust (Annex), Tiruchendur Temple, Thirupathisaram.

30. Arulmigu Karthiga Asthami Trust (Annex), Jadayupuram Temple - Thirupathisaram.

31. Arulmigu Keela Arasalvar Thoovadasi Trust - Dherisanamkopu.

The schools and colleges run by this department : 1. Devaswom high school - Kuzhithurai. 2. Devaswom high school - Thirparappu. 3. N.V.K.S. higher secondary school - Nallur. 4. Devaswom primary school - Kuzhithurai. 5. Devaswom higher secondary school - Mandaikadu. 6. Teachers training college - Arttur. 7. N.V.K.S. English primary school - Arttur and 8. Devikumari college for women - Kuzhithurai.

Mutts : Munchirai Mutt in Munchirai, in Vilavancode taluk a Narasimha mutt in Thiruvattar in Kalkulam taluk and Umayorupagan mutt, Therur, Panamthittu in Agasthiswaram taluk are functioning under the control of the this department.

Libraries and Thevara padasalas : This department maintains 3 libraries and one Thevara padasala in the district. The libraries are located at Nagercoil, Radha Krishnapuram and Padmanabhapuram. These libraries are known as 'Sree Chitra Hindu Religious Libraries'. The Thevara padasala is situated at Suchindram Devaswom.

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CHAPTER 18

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Kanniyakumari district emerged in November 1956, as a result of the States Reorganisation Act, which area until then was part and parcel of the former Trivandrum district in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State. Public life in the district, prior to 1956, was therefore, essentially, guided by the course of events in the erstwhile Princely State of Travancore and later in the Travancore-Cochin State of the Indian Union.

The first ever attempt in associating the people in representative government was made during the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal (1885-1924)[1]. By virtue of the Legislative Council Act, the Legislative Council was established in 1888, which in turn laid the foundation for the modern representative institutions in the State. During 1921-22, there were three general constituencies in the area now comprising the Kanniyakumari district viz., Agasthiswaram, Eranial-cum-Vilavancode and Kalkulam-cum-Thovala.The total number of registered voters in these constituencies was 6448, 5464 and 4701 respectively, in 1921-22.[1(a)]

The first General Elections of the Indian Union were held in 1952. The area comprising the present district consisted of five single member Assembly Constituencies (i.e.) Thiruvattar, Nagercoil, Kalkulam, Killiyoor and Vilavancode, and two double-member constituencies (i.e.) Agastiswaram and Eraniel. The only Lok Sabha Constituency in the area was Nagercoil.[2]

In the General Elections 1952 to the 9 Assembly Constituencies, the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress party secured 6 seats, the Socialist Party 2, and one by an Independent candidate. The Parliamentary seat went to the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress Party.[3] With the merger of the area now comprising the Kanniyakumari district with the Madras State (now Tamil Nadu), its representation in the Travancore - Cochin State Legislature ceased.

Representation of the district in the State and Union Legislatures :

General Elections of 1957 : The country went again to the polls for the second time in 1957. It was the first General Elections in the district, after its merger with the Madras State. There were six Assembly Constituencies viz., Kanniyakumari, Nagercoil, Colachel, Killiyoor, Padmanabhapuram and Vilavancode. The only Parliamentary Constituency in the district was Nagercoil, which consisted of Nagercoil, Colachel. Killiyoor, Padmanabhapuram and Vilavancode Assembly segments, while the Kanniyakumari Assembly segment formed part of Tiruchendur Paliamentary Constituency. The number of Assembly as well as Parliamentary Constituencies remained unaltered upto the third General Elections held in 1962.

The Delimitation Commission of 1962 recommended the formation of 234 Assembly Constituencies in Tamil Nadu. As a result, Kanniyakumari district stood gained by one more Assembly Constituency (i.e.) Tiruvattar for the fourth General Elections 1967. Thereby the number of Assembly Constituencies in the district rose from six to seven. The Kanniyakumari Assembly segment continued to be under the Parliamentary Constituency of Thiruchendur already existing. The five Assembly segments and the newly formed Thiruvattar Assembly Constituency formed the Nagercoil Parliamentary Constituency.

According to the Delimitation Commission Act of 1972, changes were made in the Assembly and the Parliamentary Constituencies. As regards the State Assembly, the Commission decided that each Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu should consist of Six Assembly Constituencies. So far as this district was concerned, the position remained unaltered. There were already seven Assembly constituencies in the district of which, one Assembly Constituency was included in Tiruchendur Parliamentary Constituency thereby satisfying the norms set forth by the Commission. These constituencies will remain as such, territorially up to 2000 AD.[4]

Position of Political Parties : The major political parties which contested in the district during the first General Elections (1952) were Socialist, Congress, Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress, Revolutionary Socialist, and the Tamil Nadu Congress and some Independent candidates. During the Second General Elections 1957, the Indian National Congress, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Communist

Party, the People's Progressive Party and the Praja Socialist party contested. Out of the six Assembly Constituencies in the district, two Congress candidates, one each for the Killiyoor and Vilavancode Constituencies were unanimously elected.[5] In the remaining constituencies, the Congress and an Independent candidate bagged 3 seats and 1 seat respectively. The Nagercoil Parliamentary Constituency elected the Indian National Congress candidate, as its representative.

During the 1962 General Elections, for the six Assembly constituencies, the Congress Party emerged victorious in four places. The remaining two seats went to the Independent candidates.[6] The Parliamentary Constituency was retained by the Indian National Congress.

During the fourth General Elections held in 1967, the Congress party captured six Assembly seats, and the seventh seat went in favour of the D.M.K.[7] The Nagercoil Parliamentary Constituency was retained by the Indian National Congress.[8]

The Lok Sabha was dissolved and the fifth General Elections were held in March, 1971, which was about a year ahead of schedule. The D.M.K., Swatantra, Indian National Congress(O) and CPI(M) contested for the seven assembly seats. The Indian National Congress(O) bagged five seats and the remaining two seats were shared by the DMK and the Swatantra parties.[9] The Parliamentary seat went in favour of the Indian National Congress (O)

The Sixth General Elections were held in 1977. The Indian National Congress, Indian National Congress (O), the Janatha, the D.M.K., the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the CPI(M) contested in this election. The Janatha party captured four seats, the ADMK two, and the CPI(M) one. The Parliamentary constituency seat went to the Indian National Congress (O).

During the seventh General Elections held during 1980, the Gandhi Kamaraj National Congress party also entered the fray. This time, the Janatha (JP), the ADMK and the CPI(M) captured two Assembly seats each and the remaining Assembly seat, went to the DMK. The Parliamentary Constituency seat went to the Indian National Congress(I).

The eighth General Elections for the Lok Sabha and the Assembly Constituencies were held simultaneously in 1984. The ADMK has changed its name as All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam the

DMK, Gandhi Kamaraj National Congress, INC, the Bharathiya Janatha Party, the Janata, the CPI(M) and Independents contested. The AIADMK captured two seats, while the Janata, the CPI(M), the INC, the DMK and the Independents secured one seat each. The Parliamentary constituency was retained by the INC.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was dissolved in January 1988, and the State was proclaimed to come under President's Rule till January 28, 1989 General Elections were held on January 21st 1989, for the various constituencies of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

The DMK, National Congress, CPI (M), AIADMK Jayalalitha faction (JL), AIADMK Janaki Ramachandran faction (JR), Bharathia Janatha Party and some Independent candidates contested for the seven Assembly Constituencies in the district. The Indian National Congress won in four Constituencies, while, the remaining three constituencies were shared equally among the DMK, CPI(M) and an Independent candidate.

The details of the results of these General Elections and a comparative study of the number of electorates in the district, during the respective elections, may be seen in the tables appended.

Second General Elections - 1957

Sl. No.	*Name of the constituency*	*Name of the successful party*	*No.of elcto-rates*	*No.of votes secured*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
		Legislative Assembly [11]		
1.	Kanniyakumari	Independent	71481	24557
2.	Nagercoil	Congress	90534	44073
3.	Colachel	Congress	78859	14055
4.	Padmanabhapuram	Congress	77102	29276
5.	Killiyoor	Congress	66513)	Uncontested
6.	Vilavancode	Congress	67159[11])	
		Parliamentary Constituency [12]		
1.	Nagercoil	Congress	380167	143288

Third General Elections - 1962

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of electo-rates	No.of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly[13]		
1.	Kanniyakumari	Congress	80199	46263
2.	Nagercoil	Congress	99408	37079
3.	Colachel	Independent	88634	36054
4.	Killiyoor	Congress	78086	25278
5.	Padmanabhapuram	Independent	87999	23747
6.	Vilavancode	Congress	76820	30386
		Parliamentary Constituency		
1.	Nagercoil	Congress	430947	157208

Fourth General Elections - 1967

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of electo-rates	No.of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly[14]		
1.	Kanniyakumari	INC	85554	37998
2.	Nagercoil	DMK	86263	36502
3.	Colachel	INC	86726	22325
4.	Padmanabhapuram	INC	78992	24663
5.	Tiruvattar	INC	75416	29345
6.	Vilavancode	INC	73410	27511
7.	Killiyoor	INC	73403	21423
		Parliamentary Constituency		
1.	Nagercoil	INC	472100	180265

Fifth General Elections - 1971

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of Electo- rates	No.of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly[16]		
1.	Kanniyakumari	DMK	93383	35884
2.	Nagercoil	Swatantra	101962	34726
3.	Colachel	INC(O)	97695	37401
4.	Padmanabhapuram	INC(O)	89344	32416
5.	Tiruvattar	INC(O)	93019	36097
6.	Vilavancode	INC(O)	85839	32139
7.	Killiyoor	INC(O)	85361	34573
		Parliamentary Constituency[17]		
1.Nagercoil		INC(O)	553220	215324

Sixth General Elections - 1977

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of electo- rates	No of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly		
1.	Kanniyakumari	AIADMK	104698	23222
2.	Nagercoil	AIADMK	132870	26973
3.	Colachel	Janatha	111755	21131
4.	Padmanabhapuram	Janatha	97615	22910
5.	Thiruvattar	Janatha	96167	27812
6.	Vilavancode	CPI(M)	117831	32628
7.	Killiyoor	Janatha	95659	34237
		Parliamentary Constituency		
1.	Nagercoil	INC	645032	244526

Seventh General Elections - 1980

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of electo-rates	No.of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly		
1.	Kanniyakumari	AIADMK	112972	35613
2.	Nagercoil	AIADMK	130424	39328
3.	Colachel	DMK	115330	42949
4.	Padmanabhapuram	JNP(JP)	101364	19758
5.	Thiruvattar	CPI(M)	101139	29463
6.	Vilavancode	CPI(M)	122522	34170
7.	Killiyoor	JNP(JP)	97360	31521
		Parliamentary Constituency		
1.	Nagercoil	INC	663322	187111

Eighth General Elections - 1984

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Name of the successful party	No.of electo-rates	No.of votes secured
1	2	3	4	5
		Legislative Assembly		
1.	Kanniyakumari	AIADMK	121584	45353
2.	Nagercoil	DMK	135489	41572
3.	Colachel	AIADMK	123569	33589
4.	Padmanabhapuram	Independent	110266	28465
5.	Thiruvattar	CPI(M)	110731	26851
6.	Vilavancode	INC	135185	47169
7.	Killiyoor	Janatha	105740	36944

Parliamentary Constituency

1. Nagercoil	INC	720980	235365

Ninth General Elections - 1989

Sl. No.	*Name of the constituency*	*Name of the successful Party*	*No.of electo-rates*	*No.of votes secured*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
	Legislative Assembly			
1.	Kanniyakumari	DMK	140558	33376
2.	Nagercoil	INC	156744	35647
3.	Colachel	INC	141330	36611
4.	Padmanabhapuram	CPI(M)	125883	21489
5.	Thiruvattar	INC	129184	.39193
6.	Vilavancode	INC	155021	41168
7.	Killiyoor	Independent	121936	30127
	Parliamentary Constituency			
1.	Nagercoil	INC	952947	292817

Comparative Study of the electorates in Kanniyakumari district[19]

Sl.No.	*Year*	*No.of electorates*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	1952	—
2.	1957	451648
3.	1962	511146
4.	1967	559764
5.	1971	646603
6.	1977	756595
7	1980	781111
8.	1984	842564
9.	1989	970656

Newspapers and Periodicals: The exponents of the Lemurian Theory hold that a large land mass to the south of Kanniyakumari was engulfed by the sea.[20] It is said that the first two Tamil Sanghams (Academies) were held in south Madurai and Kapatapuram which were located in the lost continent. As these sanghams were the authorities to issue imprimatur to all the literary works in the country, this district has a journalistic history, traced back to very ancient period.

In the modern era also, the district played a significant role in the development of press. As early as 1840, a quarterly Tamil magazine for children "*Bala Deepika*" was started at Nagercoil. This was the first magazine for children in Tamil Nadu. In the year 1861, "*Desopakari*" a monthly magazine in Tamil was started by the London Mission Society and it is still under publication by the Kanniyakumari Diocese.[21]

In the year 1874, one D.C.Joseph edited "*Travancore Abhimani*" which was the first Tamil daily ever started in this country. But later it ceased to be published.[22] In the recent past, many local periodicals were published from the district and now they have ceased to exist, for one reason or other. The important periodicals among them were, Tamilian. (edited by P.Chidamparam Pillai), Devi, (by P.Mahalinga Mudaliar) Sathangai, (by Vanamaligai), Nanjil, Tamilaruvi, Kanni, Kumari, Pathumai, Sudar and Ulavan. The following are the periodicals published from the district, at present :-

	Name of the periodical *(1)*	*Periodicity* *(2)*	*Name of the Editor* *(3)*
1.	Theeviravathi (Tamil)	Monthly	N.A. Velayutham
2.	Thenkural (Tamil)	Monthly	Arjunan
3.	Kavi Amuthu (Tamil)	Monthly	Sivasubramanian
4.	Kai Vilakku (Tamil)	Monthly	Boothai-Annamalai
5.	Desopakari (Tamil)	Monthly	Kanniyakumari Diocese.

The following are the newspapers and periodicals published from various places of this country and are now in circulation in the district :

I. Newspapers (Dailies)

	Name of the Newspaper (1)	Language (2)	Place of Publication (3)
1.	The Hindu	English	Madurai
2.	Indian Express	"	"
3.	Thinathanthi	Tamil	Tirunelveli
4.	Thinamani	"	Madurai
5.	Thinamalar	"	Tirunelveli
6.	Malai Murasu	"	"
7.	Malai Malar	"	"
8.	Thinakaran	"	"
9.	Anna	"	Madras
10.	Murasoli	"	"
11.	Manorama	Malayalam	Trivandrum
12.	Keralakumudi	"	"
13.	Vanchinadu	Tamil	"

II. Periodicals (Vernacular)

	Name of the periodical (1)	Periodicity (2)	Language (3)	Place of Publication (4)
1.	Tamilarasu	Monthly	Tamil	Madras
2.	Kumutham	Weekly	"	"
3.	Anandavikatan	"	"	"
4.	Kalki	"	"	"
5.	Tuklak	Fortnighly	"	"
6.	Kunkumam	Weekly	"	"
7.	Junior Vikatan	"	"	"
8.	Rani		"	"
9.	Devi		"	"

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
10	Kalkandu	Weekly	Tamil	Madras
11.	Kalaimagal	Monthly	"	"

III. Periodicals (English)

1	Frontline	Fortnightly	English	Madras
2	Illustrated Weekly) of India)	Weekly	"	Bombay
3.	Sunday	"	"	Calcutta
4.	India Today	"	"	New Delhi
5.	The Week	"	"	Trivandrum
6.	Mirror	Monthly		Bombay
7.	Competition Success) Review)	"		New Delhi
8.	Competition Master	"		Chandigarh
9.	Wisdom	"	"	Madras

Voluntary Social Service Organizations : In our country. voluntary social service is of recent origin. In ancient or medieval India there was no scope for it as the Hindu religion with its joint family and the caste system obviated its need. All the members of the joint family. the weak and the strong, the sick and the healthy, the employed and unemployed were all taken due care by the head of the joint family and so the need for assistance from outside did not arise. The establishment of the British rule in India weakened the ties of social cohesion and made the people highly individualistic. Besides, the western civilization as well had its impact on Indian life and leisure with the result being ancient institutions like the joint family and the caste system gradually began to fade. However, the activities of the missionaries to some extent filled in the void created by the decline of these ancient institutions.

The missionaries opened schools, orphanages, dispensaries and hospitals and blazed the trial for active social work in the country. This may be said to be the beginning of the voluntary social work in our country.

In Kanniyakumari district, voluntary social service took its roots as early as 1818. The Protestant Missionaries organised the first English School at Nagercoil paved the way for the other developments in the field of voluntary social services. The cause of Women's Education as sponsored by one Mrs. Mead, LMS Missionary, who took much effort in organising a boarding school for girls at Nagercoil, in 1819.[23] The noble work of serving the poor and needy engaged the attention of one Rev. Victor of the St. Antony Church. As a result, a Roman Catholic Centre at Mulagumood was set up in 1860 and two years later, an orphanage and a convent at Mulagumood came up with limited financial resources.[24]

In 1899, one Rev. Mother Louisa and Rev. Mother Ursula, nuns from Belgium, took charge of the Convent and devoted themselves for the cause of women's welfare. It was during their period, the famous Mulagumood Lace and Embroidery Works came up.[25]

Another landmark in the history of voluntary social services in the district was the establishment of the Catherine Booth Hospital in Nagercoil for the depressed classes, by the Salvation Army in 1897.[26] The London Missionary followed suit and established a Medical Mission at Neyyoor in 1938 now popularly known as the CSI Hospital. (Detailed accounts of these are dealt with in chapter 16 "*Medical and Public Health Services*" of this Gazetteer). The position today is much different in the sense that voluntary social service is much in existence everywhere and quite a number of voluntary social service institutions have come up in the district which are discussed below.

Gandhi Ashram, Therur : One S.Sivan Pillay, a lawyer turned social worker started the Kasturba Basic School at Therur in the year 1946.[27] Inspired by Gandhiji, the school had the touch of Gandhian principles and is run on the Gurukulavasam style. His training at Wardha led to the establishment of the Gandhi Ashram at Therur in 1949.

Activities of the Ashram : (1) In the beginning, Khadi spinning was encouraged in the Ashram. Advancement in spinning technique led to the charka giving way to mechanical spindles. This made it possible for the Ashram to run a Rural Textiles Centre, which provides employment for 30 families. (2) In the year 1951, the Ashram established a model housing colony for 20 families belonging to different communities and religion These houses have been put in the possession and ownership of the occupants, who pay the cost in easy instalments. (3) At

Kulasekaranputhur, the Ashram maintains a model paddy farm, where modern techniques of cultivation is taught and (4) A Balwadi Centre and a sangam by name "Alagia Chola Nangai Mathar Sangam" were started in 1963 and 1964 respectively.[28] The sangam maintains a Balwadi, which has 40 children on its roll, and it also conducts tailoring course exclusively for girls, who are orphans and the like.

Guild of Service : Guild of Service was started at Nagercoil in the year 1986 with the Collector of the district as its Chairman. The other office bearers of this Guild are two vice- presidents, an honorary treasurer and an honorary secretary. This Institution has 44 members of whom 19 are life members. Guild of Service runs a creche, two canteens and an envelope making unit at Nagercoil, which provides employment for 15 physically handicapped youth. An Advanced Rural Textile Centre started by this Guild is now functioning under the control of the Khadi and Village Industries Board. This industry offers employment to 40 rural girls.[29]

Sarojini New life Centre : Sarojini New Life Centre was set up in 1979 by one Thiru.Vincent in memory of his wife. He has donated his ancestral house and a piece of land for running this centre. The aim of the centre is to rehabilitate the deserving poor girls without any caste or creed. Initially, the centre provided employment to 20 girls. Training in additional trades like tailoring, fibre bag making, screw-pine and palm leaf works is being imparted, and the strength has gone up to 58.[30]

Sri Kanniyakumari Gurukula Ashram - Kanniyakumari : - Sri Kanniyakumari Gurukula Ashram at Kanniyakumari was founded by one Tmt.V.Alamelu Ammal in the year 1952. She was guided by one Guru, Swami Sri Nityannandha Giri and Chelukani Sitaraman, a disciple of Aurobindo, in maintaining the Ashram.[31]

The objective of the Asram is to serve for the betterment of the poor and the needy. It also aims to provide shelter and care to the orphans and their rehabilitation. The following are the various other activities of the Ashram:-

1. Nityananda Girisa Balalayam - an Infant Home started in 1964. 2. Jawaharlal Nehru Bala Kshetra - a nursery school aided by the State Welfare Board. 3. 'Vallalar Vanitha Mandali' which offers vocational training for women and 4. Sir Kuzhandhayanandha Shishu Bhavan - a creche aided by the Ministry of Social Welfare - Government of India. At present, there are 150 children, 20 women and 10 old people in the

Ashram. International institutions like European Economic Community (EEC) and DANIDA extend some assistance to this institution.

Mohan Ashram, Nagercoil - This Ashram runs a child welfare centre since 1961, with financial assistance from State Social Welfare Board. There are 50 children of the age group between 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5, taught elementary education every year. So far, 1250 children have been benefited since 1961. It also runs a creche for 25 children below 3 years of age, for the benefit of working women.[32]

Nagercoil Club - This club, established in the year 1889, despite its discontinuance and revival, flourishes as a Tennis Club. Kalaivanar late N.S.Krishnan was an employee of this club and who, later, as a cine artiste rose to fame, and associated himself with the club during his peak career in the film world. He had contributed bounteously for the development of the club. The club provides assistance such as coaching etc. to start tennis club elsewhere in the district.[33]

Kasturba Madhar Sangam - Nagercoil.[34] The Kasturba Madhar Sangam was started on 14 September 1944, by the sincere efforts of a few service-minded, dedicated ladies of the locality under the leadership of Tmt. Kamalakshy Sivan Pillai of Therur. The building for the sangam was constructed in 9.5 cents of poramboke land, given on Kuthagapattam by late Sri.A.J.John, the then Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin State. It was built with the donations and contributions received from the members of the sangam, well - wishers and philanthropists of Nagercoil and even out-siders and it was declared open by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on September 29, 1956.

The activities of the sangam such as spinning, weaving, music, dance, ambar charka and hindi classes are the main attractions. The members visit hospitals and begger homes often and help the needy. The sangam donates liberally to the government at times of natural calamities like cyclone, flood, drought, fire accident etc. It has also adopted 'Gandhi Colony' a slum in Nagercoil and extends social service to the inhabitants of the area. At present, Kasturba Madhar Sangam has 190 members of whom 51 are life members. The sangam conducts vocational training programme for ladies in tailoring courses. In order to conduct this course successfully, aid it receive from the Central Social Welfare Board. The State Bank of Travancore had provided finiancial assistance on loan basis to 50 girls, for sewing machines. The sangam engage more than 100 girls for stitching free

uniforms to school children every year. It also gets financial assistance from the State Social Welfare Board which is utilised for the welfare and uplift of the physically handicapped, destitute women, widows and orphan girls. Above all it extends its wholehearted support and cooperation to Anti Dowri Movement.

Kumari Kalai Kazhagam - Nagercoil - The object of this Kalai Kazhagam is to promote south Indian Classical dances and classical music, to conduct classes for those who have taste in these arts, encourage to bring up new artists to limelight and to conduct competitions every year among school and college students to spot out talented youngsters. The Kazhagam extends financial assistance to the poor artists who are professional singers and who are unable to perform consert due to old age sickness or physical infirmity. It also conducts regular programmes of fine arts. The office bearers of the Kazhagam are the prominent citizens of the district. The Kazhagam is run from out of the subscriptions collected from members and also donations from philanthrophists.

Nagercoil Women's Development Project - The Family Planning Association of India, Bombay launched its project on 'Women's Development' at Nagercoil in the year 1983. The aim of this project is to implement need based developmental activities for rural women, so as to enhance their status to a considerable level, which also includes the acceptance, adoption and promotion of small family norm on a voluntary basis, and stepping up male involvement in population education programmes. Though the project is under the direct control of Family Planning Association of India, Bombay, a district level liaison committee consisting non-officials has been formed in Nagercoil with a Chairman, and 4 others as members for overall supervision, guidance and administration of the project activities. The project covers the population of 76,588 spread over 153 villages in Agasthiswaram block of Kanniyakumari district. Various activities like seminars, conferences, meetings, creche programme, free tuition classes, exhibition, film shows etc. on Women's Development and Family planning; training programmes for mahila mandal office bearers; members, volunteers, health voluntary groups, creche teachers, ayahs, local teachers etc. health programmes like baby shows, nutrition demonstration, immunisation programme, eligible couple meetings, cleaning camps, ante-natal and post-natal check-ups, supply of first aid kits and developmental programmes such as helping mahila mandals are under taken by this project. Financial

assistance to the poor widows and their daughters and orphans has been extended through the project as well as nationalised banks. These activities are implemented through 139 mahila mandals, 50 yuvathi mandals, 124 health voluntary groups, 7 cultural groups and 14 youth clubs.

Six creche centres have been established in the most backward villages under the project benefiting 150 children. Ninety per cent of the financial input is from Central Social Welfare Board and 10 per cent from mahila mandals. Poor widows are given financial assistance of Rs.1000/- each for conducting the marriage of their daughters. Under self-employment scheme 552 women and 8 men have been sanctioned loans ranging from Rs.500/- to Rs.2,000/- through banks as well as this development project. A sum of Rs.4,03,050/- has so far been sanctioned as loan through banks and Rs.82,250 by this project. A soap unit at Marungoor with the financial aid of Rs.21,000/- and a tailoring and handicraft unit at Kovalam are also run by the project staff. The soap unit provides employment to 11 persons. At present, the project has 18 members. A project co-ordinator is in charge of the management of the project, besides the complementary staff consisting of one accountant, statistical assistant, training officer, typist, field organiser, auxiliary nurse midwife, 8 women welfare workers driver-cum-projectionist and a Tailoring Teacher. The staff are given training periodically by the project liaison committee. All the project activities are conducted with perfect co-ordination of government and non-government organisations.

Friends of Nature Society - Nagercoil - Kanniyakumari district is abundantly blessed by nature with the precious weather of a rich natural cover of various types of flora and fauna. The entire district is full of scenic beauty with swaying coconut palms and waving paddy fields with pretty hills here and there and a sandy beach bordered on three sides by the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. As in other parts of our country, the people of this district are yet to realise the full worth and value of this precious heritage and make judicious use of these natural resources, keeping in mind sound ecological principles for the well being of all. With a view to create awareness among the people of the district about ecology, afforestation, preservation of natural resources and protecting wild life from wanton destruction, the "*Friends of Nature Society*" was formed. Mr.Munir Hoda, I.A.S., the former district Collector, an Officer with

great initiative and foresight was elected as the first president of the society. The District Forest Officer was nominated as the Secretary and Dr.Morris as the Treasurer, 15 non-official members were also selected for the society from among the leading citizens of the district, viz. scientists, intellectuals and others. The first meeting of the society was held on 18 January 1988. The direction "*Save Nature*" was accepted as the official slogan of the society. The executive committee of the society meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the stadium buildings, Nagercoil. For the effective implementation of the various programmes of the society, different sub-committees have been formed. Heads of various government departments in the district, M.Ps and M.L.As of the respective areas and presidents of various service organisations have been included in the executive committee.

The following are the objectives of the Society:-

(i) To protect, preserve and enrich the flora, fauna and the natural habitation around mountain, rivers, tanks, sea-coasts etc.:

(ii) to enhance the awareness and sensibility of the people towards environment as a whole and its allied problems.

(iii) to instill a sense of responsibility and genuine feeling of love and concern in the citizens, especially youth and children for environment and nature and to motivate them for active involvement for their protection and improvement.

(iv) to evaluate environmental protection measures and allied educational programmes from the ecological political, economic, social and aesthetic points of view;

(v) to educate the public, especially those residing in and arround forests and wild life reserves and sea-coast, river banks etc., and to seek co-operation from the decision makers and administrators for promotion of the objectives of the society.

(vi) to co-operate with help the Government machinary to implement and monitor its varied environmental protection measures, which are in consonance with the objectives of the society.

(vii) to promote understanding of the environment and its related problems and to enlighten people regarding their role and responsibility in preserving their environment;

(viii) to encourage *tree planting* and beautification of households, villages, institutions, urban areas, waste lands etc. by citizens, especially children;

(ix) to promote social forestry, agro-forestry and to encourage utilization of waste land including poramboke lands;

(x) to arrange camps, conferences, seminars, study groups and such other measures to create and promote environmental awareness and collect and disseminate useful and worthwhile information to public and publish journals and work as a clearing house for information in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the society;

(xi) to support and promote antipollution efforts of air, water etc. including noise pollution and to work for the general improvement of the public health.

(xii) to provide scholarships and educational assistance to students who are interested in studying issues pertaining to wildlife and environmental activities; and

(xiii) to cooperate with and co-ordinate to the extent feasible, the efforts of various voluntary agencies, institutions, engaged in similar activities.

Christian Mission Service - Christian Mission Service is a registered body and managed by a governing council, which comprises members from various protestant churches. It has 51 institutions in the rural areas of South India, caring for the welfare of children, in the matter of food, clothing, shelter and education. The industrial vocational and agricultural training courses provided by the Mission are useful for generating self-employment opportunities for the youth. This mission was founded by Mr. Emil Richter, a German National and other committed Christians; Mr. Richter, while listening to a sermon of an Indian Pastor early in 1957, became deeply compassionate about the conditions of the poor and determined to help them. The Mission activises the ideas of its founder and it is now maintaining the following Institutions in Kanniyakumari district :-

1. CMS Children's Home for Girls,	- Melaramanpudur.
2. CMS Children's Home for Boys,	- Nagercoil.
3. CMS Children's Village,	- Azhakiapandiyapuram.
4. CMS Children's Home,	- Thadikkarankonam.
5. CMS House Mother's Training Centre,	- Nagercoil.
6. CMS Industrial Training Institute,	- Azhakiapandiyapuram.
7. CMS Agricultural Institute,	- Keeriparai
8. CMS Retreat Centre,	- Puthenkadai
9. CMS Community Tailoring School,	- Puthenkadai
10. CMS High School,	- Thadikkarankonam, and
11. CMS Primary School,	- Keeriparai

Lions Club, Nagercoil - The Lions Club, Nagercoil was inaugurated in the year 1962. In 1970, it conducted an eye-camp in which 420 cataract operations were done.[34]

The leading Institutions rendering social service in the district both government and private are listed below:-

1. Social Service Society,	..	- Kottar
2. Centre for Social Reconstruction,	..	- Nagercoil
3. Society for Social Education Development,	..	- Neyyoor
4. Social Welfare Association,	..	- Monday Market
5. Thiruvalluvar Educational Development Society,		- Colachel
6. Shanthi Dawn,	..	- Nagercoil
7. Harijan Welfare Association,	..	- Nagercoil
8. St. Pious Social Service Centre,	..	- Kumarapuram
9. Society for the Tribal Welfare,	..	- Keeriparai
10. Village Welfare Society,	..	- Colachel
11. Rural Organisation for Awareness and Development	..	- Azhagiya pandyapuram
12. Sister's of Charity of St. Anne, Tamilnadu	..	- Nagercoil

13. Thiruvalluvar High Education Society	..	- Vadasery
14. Social Change and Development Society	..	- Nagercoil
15. Community Development Centre	..	- Bhoothapandy
16. Centre for Peace and Justice	..	- Kanniyakumari
17. Legal Education and Aid for the poor	..	- Nagercoil
18. The Tamil Nadu Progressive Association) for the Physically Handicapped)	..	- Ramavarmapuram
19. Assisi Farm Training Centre	..	- Palkulani
20. Home for the Aged	..	- Pilankalai
21. Council for Human Rights Protection	..	- Nattalam
22. Human Education and Action) for Liberation Movement)	..	- Ammandivilai
23. Social Education and) Rural Reconstruction Centre)	..	- Azhagiya- pandiapuram)
24. Adi-Dravidar Developmental Society	..	- Thuckalay
25. The Youth Mission	..	- Ramavarma) puram)
26. Infant Jesus Orphanage	..	- Mulagumoodu
27. Adult Education Institution	..	- Thiruthuva) puram)
28. Vimala Orphanage	..	- Kodumkulam
29. Blind School	..	- Irenipuram
30. St. Joseph Orphanage	..	- Chinnathurai
31. Society of the Sisters of Divine Saviour	..	- Manjalumoodu
32. Christian Mission Service Institution ..	-	Thadikkaran- konam)
33. CBH Vocational Training Centre	..	- Thovalai
34. Survodya Sangam	..	- Thovalai
35. Vivekanandha Rock Memorial) Committee and Vivekanandha Kendram)	..	- Kanniyakumari
36. Bhaktha Nilayam	..	- Kanniyakumari

37. Gandhi Kasthurbaji Children's Home .. - N.Kundal
38. Anbu Manai Boys Home .. - Mantharampudur
39. Kanniyakumari Kendra .. - Kanniyakumari
40. Biley Occupational Therapy Centre .. - Kanniyakumari
41. Catherine Booth Vocational Training) Centre for the physically handicapped) .. - Aralvoimozhi
42. Athancottasan Muthamil Kazhagam .. - Mondaikadu
43. St. Therasa's Chiruvar Illam .. - Mondaikadu
44. St. Vincent - De.Paul Chiruvar Illam .. - Kalial
45. Doreas .. - Nagercoil
46. Women's Voluntary Service .. - Nagercoil
47. Palmyrah Workers Development Association .. - Marthandam
48. Sri Kanda Sasta Arivu Illam .. - Athancode
49. PASA .. - Pulipuram.
50. Indian Red Cross Society .. - Nagercoil
51. Bala Mandir Transit Home. - Nagercoil
52. Inner Wheel Club - Nagercoil.
53. Boys Club .. - Nagercoil

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CHAPTER-19

PLACES OF INTEREST

AGASTHISWARAM (Population 12857)[1]: Agasthiswaram a village about 18km. towards south of Nagercoil, is on Nagercoil-Cape Comerin main road and is about three km from the Cape. The village derives its name from the Tamil sage, Agasthiar, who according to mythological stories is believed to have resided here. There is an ancient temple of Siva consecrated by Agasthiar.[2] As it was then worshipped by Agasthiar, it is called Agasthialingam. There is a vilva tree which is symbolic under which Agasthiar is believed to have spent his life in meditation. The peculiarity of this tree is that flowers would appear on this, but these would not develop into fruits. Several persons are named after this God and we can see a number of temples dedicated to Agasthiar, in this district.

Another temple at this place is dedicated to Kulasekara Vinayagar. The annual festival of this temple in the month of Chithirai attracts a large concourse of people.

Agriculture and spinning are the main occupation of the people of the place. There is a big library called Agasthiananda library. Agasthiswaram is connected with Nagercoil by regular bus service.

One Government high school, one primary health centre, one soap unit and a khadi sub-centre run under the Khadi and Village Industries Board are the important institutions in this village. A dairy farm is also serving the people here.[3]

The Panchayat Union Office, Agasthiswaram, with its staff quarters is located at a distance of three km. at Perumalpuram on the Nagercoil-Cape road. A farmer's club and a Farmer's Service Co-operative Society are functioning at this place for promoting the interest of the farmers. They provide loans, seeds, fertilizers etc., to members of the society. An ashram, run by private management, known as "Mohan Ashram" is conducting regular Balwadi classes. There is also a poultry unit under the District Veterinary Officer at the rear end of the panchayat union office.

There is a college called Vivekananda college in Agasthiswaram which was established in the year 1965-66.[4] It is run by Vivekananda Educational Society.

AROMBOLY OR ARALVAIMOZHI (Thovalai taluk-Population 14,641-M.7359+F.7282)[5] : The Aromboly is called "Aralvaimozhi" in Tamil (ஆரல்வாய்மொழி) and it is "Aruvamozhi" in Malayalam. The etymological meaning of the Tamil word is that it is a place where the wind speaks. Perhaps, rushing winds through the pass would have influenced the ancient people to call it by such a symbolic name. This place is situated on the foothills of the western ghats. The entry point of the NH- 7 i.e. Nagercoil-Tirunelveli road is Aromboly pass. Before reorganisation of States, it was the boundary village of the former Travancore-Cochin State, and as such there was a boundary Chowki-post at this place to prevent smuggling, and clandestine movement of essential items of commodities. This has, however, since been abolished now.

The range of mountains forming the western ghats served as a natural barrier which separated the old State of Travancore from the rest of South India. However, Aromboly Pass served as a passage through which numerous attacks were carried out on South Travancore during the early and medieval times. It was through this five Kms. long pass, the Pandyas, the Cholas, the Vijayanagar Generals and Nayak Kings of Madurai attacked the fertile region of Nanjilnad.[6]

In the middle of the 18th century, Marthanda Varma, the Maharaja of Travancore (1729-58) fortified Aromboly and strengthened it with a view to defending Nanjilnad[7]. To check the border raids, he even stationed a detachment of his troops at this place. At the time of Velu Thambis rebellion against the British in 1809 Col. Walsh's troops captured the fortification at Aromboly by an unexpected sudden attack.

On the northern side of the village is the shrine of Meenakshi - Sundareswarar. A shrine of Avvaiyar is also found at Muppandal.[8]

Thanumalayam Puthoor, Mission Kudiyiruppu, Vadakkoor, Kurisadi and Perumalpuram are the important localities in Aromboly. The total population of the place is more than 14,500. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people and the important crops grown are groundnut and gingelly. Rainfed tanks and draw wells are the major source of

irrigation. Oil pressing is one of the major industries here. Besides, a ginning factory is run by a private entrepreneur.

There is a temple at Vadakkoor which is famous for its important festival called "Namburan Vilayattu". The festival is peculiar to this temple alone. which is celebrated in the month of April, every year.

Kurusadi is a suburb of Aromboly where exists a famous church. This place has been associated with Devasagayam Pillai, a great martyr, who was shot dead here, under the orders of Marthandavarma of Travancore as he did not give up the practice of Christianity after conversion to that religion, in spite of the Raja's requests. Nilakandan Pillai, who hailed from a noble family held an office in the court of the Raja. He was disposed to become a christian and after discussions on Christianity with De Lannoy a Belgian Officer in the Travancore army. Nilakantan Pillai was baptised while he was 32 years of age and he got his name changed as Devasahayam. Four years later, he was imprisoned for the offence of conversion to Christianity and after three years of imprisonment, he was shot in 1752, by the order of the Raja at Aromboly about the 82nd kilometre on the road from Trivandrum to Tirunelveli. A Cross stands even to-day to mark the spot, where Nilakandan Pillai was shot dead.

A Roman Catholic Church has been built here, where the annual feast is held in the month of March every year. It is one of the most important festivals in the district and it attracts a gathering of over twenty five thousand.

In Aralvaimozhi, a college named Arignar Anna Arts College was established by the Kanniyakumari Educational Society in 1970.[9] The Details of subjects taught and medium of instruction are discussed in depth in the chapter under the head "Education".

A post and telegraph office, an office of the Forest Department, a Town Panchayat office, the office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board are the offices functioning here. One Higher Secondary School, and Arts college and a school for handicapped conducted by Salvation Army are the educational institutions that function here. Besides, Aralvoimozhi has a railway station.[10]

AZHAKIAPANDIAPURAM (Thovala taluk-Population 12,303 - M.6,240 + F.6,063): Azhakiapandiapuram is a high land village located 16km.

from Nagercoil on the road leading to most of the important estates in the Mahendragiri mountains. It was the headquarters of the Koravas who ruled over Nanjilnadu for a time and of the Mudaliyars, who succeeded then in sovereignty. It is a place of archaeological interest[11] The rock temple at this place contains some inscriptions of Chola King.[12] From the name of the village, it may be construed that the village had some connections with the Pandiya King. Kurathiyarai, famous for its pottery is at a distance of about two km. from here. [13] There is a rock cut cave temple locally known as 'Avvaiyar Amman Koil' at Kurathiyarai.[14] Azhakiapandian, who defeated Aye, named a village at the foot of the Pothigaimalai as Azhakiapandiapuram to commemorate his victory.[15]

There is a post office, forest ranger's office and the village administrative office. One Higher Secondary school and two primary schools are the educational institutions. An Azhagamman temple is a famous temple of this place. The Christian Mission Service runs one orphanage for rearing more than 100 children from the nearby areas. A branch, each of the State Bank of India and the Bank of Tamil Nadu Ltd., also situated here. The Kanniyakumri District Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd., and Aromboly Milk Supply Co-operative Society are here.[16]

BHOOTHAPANDY (Thovala Taluk-Population - 12,403 M:6,224 + F.6,179) [17] : Bhoothapandy, the headquarters of the Thovalai taluk, is at the foot of the Thodaga hills, and is 12 km. from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Balamore road and about 9 km. north-west of the Aromboly pass. It is an ancient place founded by one of the Pandian Kings by name Bhuthapandian.[18] It is situated amidst picturesque surroundings on the bank of the river Pazhayar. An old temple, dedicated to Bhuthalingam, which is of great archaeologial importance, is also seen here. It contains several inscriptions. The lingam, the deity of the temple is said to represent the Prithivi, one of the five elements into which the world is classified. The car festival conducted in the month of February every year is the biggest Hindu Festival in the Thovalai taluk and it attracts thousands of people from far and near.

The taluk office, police station, forest ranger's office, Block Development office, Sub-Registrar's office etc. are functioning in this taluk headquarters. One Primary School, one Primary and Middle School and one Higher Secondary School, are the educational institutions that cater to the needs of the students of this locality. For banking facilities the State Bank of Travancore has established a branch here. [19]

Thittuvilai, a suburb of this village is at a distance of one km. from Bhuthapandy. The majority of the population is muslims and their main occupation is weaving. There are three churches and a mosque in this village.

CHITHRAL (Vilavancode taluk-Revenue Village Arumanai whose population is 10,177 M.5119 + F.5058) : Chithral is a small village situated at a distance of 8 km. from Kuzhithurai, on the Kuzhithurai-Thikkurichi-Chithral road.

Near this village, stands the small craggy hill called Tirucharanattumalai which means the hill holy to the charanars. Nikantus say that the word "charanar" represents "Jain monks". According to the Tamil lexicon, the word means Jain or Buddhist sages who have obtained supernatural powers. Therefore it is to be presumed that the hill was sacred to the Jain monks, or they might have lived there in large numbers. Epigraphical evidences also show that the sacred hill was dominated by the devout Jains in the 9th century A.D.[20]

Though this is a small place, it is famous for the rock-cut temples, which were first discovered a hundred years ago. These are found on the summit of a huge rocky hill.[21] This can be reached by a rough foot path formed of rubbles. One of the most important structures is a low roofed temple, facing west with a dilapidated gopuram. It is cut out of a rock with its hall built outside and has a low domb supported by ornamental granite pillars. It is a Jain shrine as seen from the base- relief sculptures of Jain Thirthankaras, on the rock forming one of the side walls on the north. [23] The inner shrine contains images of Ambigai, Buddha and Gopalakrishna. The annual festival of the temple is conducted before Vaikasi Vishakam, for a period of 10 days, which attracts people all over the district.

The cave temple at the place is divided into three chambers. The presiding deity in "Padmasana" posture under a triple umbrella in the central chamber is Mahavira. The huge image standing under the canopy of a hooded serpent to the left of Mahavira is Parṣavanathi and on his right stands Bhagavathi in the place of Padmavathidevi.

There is epigraphic evidence to show that there was a reputed Jain University at Thiruchcharanathumalai.[23]

The temple and the huge rock in the background presents a striking view. The top of the work commands a beautiful view of the jungle-clad hills, the low lying paddy fields, river and the numerous palmyrah groves. The sun-set seen from the temple porch is a pleasant sight indeed.

Compelling the attention of every visitor is a rock locally called "Urinchippaarai" situated on the north of the shrine. Pure water comes from a small hole in the rock if any one sucks it.[24]

COLACHEL (Kalkulam taluk-Population 26,603 - M.13508 + F.13095) : This sea coast town is situated about 22km. west of Nagercoil and about 7km. southwest of Eraniel. It was a port of Call for European merchants, during the 16-18th centuries. The vessels of the European merchants frequented here during this period. The Dutch and the English had their trading settlements here.[25] The momentous, combined and naval battle of Colachel between Marthandavarma, the King of Travancore, and the Dutch took place in August 1741 in which Marthandavarma inflicted a crushing defeat on the Dutch and once for all put an end to the ambition of the Dutch, to set up their colony in that country.[26] In the battle, many soldiers were held captives, among them was the eminent soldier E.B. De Lennoy. He entered service of Marthandavarma, whom he helped in reorganising his army and in constructing forts at the capital and on the borders. It was this army that won many battles for Marthandavarma. This victory is commemorated by a pillar created at the site in the front of the Port office.

The Colachel port has afforded natural amenities for shipping by its physiographical structure, a group of outlying rocks forming a practical break water. Under cover of these rocks are done loading and unloading and other shipping operations. A variety of commodities is exported from here, prominent among them being palmyrah and its fibre, mineral sands fish and salt.

Small steamers anchor in seven fathoms of water, off the shore.[27] Small vessels anchor in about five fathoms, less than a quarter of a mile off the coast. The flag staff in the flag staff compound transmits messages to the ships during day time by international code system. There is no light signalling at this port. A mast headlight is put up in the flag staff compound with red screen to denote the port and another at the port beacon emitting white light to denote the anchorage. The latter is visible for about eight km. in clear weather. There is no Jetty at this port.[28] The

warf is the open beach which extends to about 300 metres in front of the flag staff compound. Manakudy and Kovalam in the Agasthiswaram taluk are two sub ports attached to this port.

In the past, this port had its glory and its importance in the industrial and marine fields also. It was the centre for transportation of the fine cotton fibres of Kottar and Eraniel to foreign countries.[29]

Now there are two fibre factories at Colachel and finished goods are sent to Tuticorin for export. The fibre produced is graded and exported to England, U.S.A. and other countries. Coir making is a major industry of the poor classes.[30]

A Municipal Public Market and a bathing ghat have been constructed near the Pamboori Vaikal. There are High Schools, Post Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, a Co-operative Housing Society, a Government dispensary and a rest house in the locality besides the customs house and the Port Office. There are branches of State Bank of Travancore and Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank. In the outskirts of the Municipality at about two km. away, a leprosy hospital viz. Charles Pease Memorial Hospital is run by the CSI Mission of Kanniyakumari. The offices of the Assistant Director of Fisheries and Municipal Commissioner are also situated here. The town is well connected with important centres like Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Thengapattinam, Marthandam, etc., by good motorable roads. There are buses inplenty for the convenience of passengers as well as pilgrims and visitors. The Madras State Palmgur Co-operative Federation has also been formed here.[31]

About two km. to the north of this place, is situated Ritapuram where exists a convent of the canonnesses of St. Augustine established in 1924 run by the Belgian sisters. A High School is also attached to this convent.

ERANIEL (Kalkulam taluk-Population 27,693 M.13863 + F.13820) : Eraniel, a separate taluk then, is now a revenue village with an area of 4172 sq.miles. Eraniel town is about 15km. from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Monday Market road and 5 km. to the south of Thuckalai. In the past,it was the seat of the royal family of Travancore before Padmanabhapuram became their Chief Town in south Travancore.[32] The portion of the palace known by the name Vasanthamandapa had a stone couch of great interest. One of the ruling Princess, it is said while sleeping on this couch suddenly disappeared and never returned

thereafter. To commemorate this, a lamp is still kept burning by the side of the couch. But, now, this old palace is in a dilapidated condition and only some remnents are there.

From very early times, the place was famous for its fine cotton fabrics. Even now, it is famous for its fine varieties of handloom clothes. Weaving is still a major occupation of the people here. Oil crushing is another industry which thrives here.

A High School, a Police Station, a Sub-Registry Office, a Post Office, a Stationary Magistrate's Court, a Hindu Mission Hospital, a P.W.D. section office and branch of the Indian Overseas Bank are the main institutions in this place.[33] An old church, built on European model for the use of the Arasars, who form a minority, is also found.[34] Even though it is an old church, it is well maintained by the local Christian community. The Nagercoil-Colachel road passes through the centre of the village.

JAMES TOWN (Agasthiswaram taluk-Population 700 [35] : It is a small village in the Agasthiswaram Panchayat Union situated at a distance of about 16 km. from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Anjugramam road. [36] The C.S.I. church here is very famous and occupies a plot of four acres of coconut grove in the village. The earliest church at Pitchai Kudiyiruppu was established in 1870 as one of the seven churches built by Ringeltaube, the earliest L.M.S. Missionery of Travancore. The James Town Mission, originally known as the Variyoor Mission was formed by one Rev. James Russel in the year 1840.[37] So, the name of James Town came to be called after him. This mission later expanded up to Kottaram with 28 churches and 25 schools. This place is famous for coconut groves and paddy fields. ALMS Primary school and a Government Primary school are functioning here.[38]

KALLIANKADU (Kalkulam taluk-Hamlet of Aloor Rev. Village which has a population of 9130) : This is a small village about seven kilometres from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Trivandrum road. There exists a Siva temple which is associated with an act of great loyalty and heroism. In the reign of Marthandavarman, the Ettuvittil Pillaimars, who were powerful Chieftains in Travancore kingdom, conspired to put an end to the life of the ruler, Marthandavarman, when an attempt on his life was made, the king had hid himself in the Siva temple at this place. Pursuing him, the Pillaimars surrounded the temple. When Marthandavarman had no chance of escape, the priest of the temple hit upon a clever plan and helped the king to slip out of the temple under the disguise of the temple

priest. When this came to the knowledge of Pillaimars, they put an end to the life of the temple priest who was in the dress of the Maharaja.[39] Not enough attention is paid to maintain the temple.

KANNIYAKUMARI or CAPE COMORIN (Agasthiswaram taluk- Population 14,087 - M.7047 + F.7040): By its very location, Kanniyakumari occupies a unique place among the tourist centres of India. It is 19km. to the south-east of Nagercoil the district head quarters. It is connected with Trivandrum by the 88 km. long road. Kanniyakumari is a place of hoary antiquity and derives its name, from Kanniyakumari, the Virgin Goddess. It is the land's end of the Indian Peninsula, where the Arabian sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal confluence. It is one of the important pilgrim centres of India of fine beach landscape with sands of myriad colour. It yet another interesting aspect of Kanniyakumari. From the beautiful beach, one can simultaneously witness the glorious sight of the moon rising up and the sun setting in the west, on a full moon day.

This place has been a very famous pilgrim centre from very early times. Periplus (Ist century A.D.), Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.) and the Sangam works like the *"Purananooru"*. *"Silappathikaram"* and the *"Manimekalai"* refer to this place. The couplet in *Tholkappiam that*

" வடவேங்கடம் தென்குமரி ஆயிடைத்
தமிழ்கூறு நல்லுலகம்"

bears ample testimony that this place was, from very early times, the southern most boundary of Tamil Nadu. The Silappathikaram also refers to this place as an important pilgrim centre, where the people from all over India took sacred bath.

The temple at this place dedicated to Goddess Kanniyakumari is surrounded by a stone wall and stands on the edge of the ocean. The sculpture of the Goddess is considered to be one of the most beautiful in India. The legendary account that Kanniyakumari, the maiden Goddess, prays to her lord living in the Himalayas symbolises the physical and spiritual unity of India.

The place is also a health resort and is a picnic spot. There is a bathing ghat, where the pilgrims take bath on holy days. A fine swimming pool opposite Cape hotel with facilities for fishing with sea water is another important feature of this place.

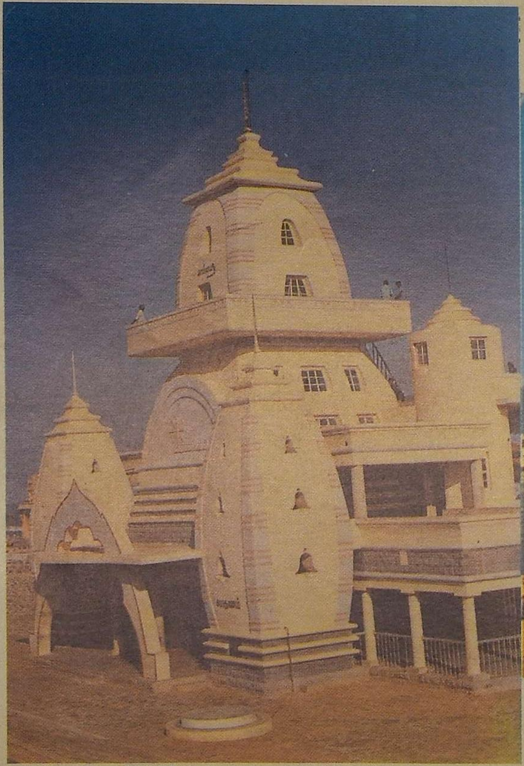
This place has been associated with great men like Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi in whose names memorials have been built here. They are very beautiful and add to the attraction of this place. The beautiful Gandhi Memorial completed in 1956, is situated as a memorial to the Father of the Nation. An urn of Mahatma Gandhi was kept here for public to pay homage before immersion.

Mahatma Gandhi visited Kanniyakumari twice in 1925 and 1937. In 1925, when he desired to worship Goddess Kanniyakumari, he was denied permission by the Travancore State Government to enter the temple on the ground that he had been abroad. But in 1937, when the temple of Travancore was thrown open to all Hindus, he was specially requested to visit Kanniyakumari to worship the Goddess. Mahatma Gandhi visited Kanniyakumari in January 1937. In 1948 his ashes were immersed in the sea waters in Kanniyakumari. In commemoration of this event a beautiful monument has been constructed here. Its central shape is 79 feet high representing the age of the Mahatma at the time of his death. The monument is built in such a way that the golden rays of the sun at Midday on 2nd October would fall on the peedam through a hole in the roof. The memorial was transferred to the administrative control of the Public (Information and Public Relations) Department from Public Works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1978.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial : Vivekananda Rock Memorial is another place in Kanniyakumari which attracts large number of tourists. As its name implies, it is essentially a sacred monument, built by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee to which Shri Mannath Padmanabhan was President and Mananeeya Eknath Ranade was Organisation Secretary and the Executive Committee Members drawn from different States to commemorate the visit of Swamy Vivekananda to "Shripada Parai" during 24th, 25th and 26th December 1892 for deep meditation and enlightenment.[40]

From very ancient times, the rock has been regarded as a sacred place. In Puranic tradition, it has been known as "Sripada Parai" meaning the rock, that has been blessed by the touch of Shripada feet of the Goddess'.

South east of the Kumari temple, in the mid sea, lies the twin rocks, popularly known as the "Vivekananda Rocks". The rocks are separated from each other by a distance of 220' with a cluster of stones protruding



Gandhi Mandapam - Kanniyakumari

Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial,
Kanniyakumari

from the sea in between them. Of the two rocks, the smaller one is near the shore, but without good flat surface upon it. The major and farther rock which has a spacious level top at an altitude of 55' was, therefore, chosen by Swami Vivekananda for meditation. This rock is hence known as the "Vivekananda Rock."

With a considerable size and elevation and situated at a distance of about 450 yards from the tapering end of the main land, the rock provides an ideal and unique vantage point to visitors, desirous of having a darshan of our sacred land spread upto the Himalayas.

On the rock, is a projection similar in form to a human fort and a little brownish in complexion, which has traditionally been revered as a symbol of Shripadam. According to legend, it was on this rock that Goddess Kanya did Tapas.[41]

It is believed that the original Kumari temple was on this rock or somewhat near it and that the rock itself was a part of the main land. Sometime in the distance past, the sea encroached upon the main land and turned the rock into an island, with the result that the old temple had to be rebuilt on the present site. The Rock has been venerated by Shakthi-worshippers through the ages as a place of great spiritual efficacy for doing "Sadhana".[42]

This might be the reason for Swamy Vivekananda to have an urge to reach this place, plunging into the sea, riding over the surging waves and swimming the distance of about 500 metres, in quest of the highest Gnana. In his deep communion with the Divine Mother, he attained the cherished fruit of his years of prayer and meditation. He received illumination, the highest experience of spiritual realisation.

It was in the fitness of things that in memory of that great event in Swamiji's life, people all over the nation, aspired to raise at that spot a grand memorial. The memorial for which Thiru S.K. Achari is the Sthapathi, is a blend of all the architectural styles of India, was inaugurated on 2 September 1970, by the then President of India, Shri V.V. Giri.

The financial assistance for the construction of the Memorial came from all the States in India to a tune of Rs.1.5 Crores and the Government of Tamil Nadu put up a break-water wall on the shore

facilitating erection of Jetty platforms and shelter for vessels to berth at the Rock at a cost of Rs.4.25 lakhs. [43]

The memorial consists of two main structures, viz. (i) Vivekananda Mandapam and (ii) Shripada Mandapam.

Vivekananda Mandapam: This 180'-11½' x 56' Mandapam consists of (1) Dhyana Mandapam, i.e., Meditation Hall with six adjacent rooms (2) Sabha Mandapam or the Assembly Hall including Pralima Mandapam (statue section) two rooms, a corridor and an open Prakaram round the Sabha Mandapam (3) Mukha Mandapam (Portion) and (4) the Front Entrance steps with two rooms and a corridor below the steps.

Shripada Mandapam: This square hall consists of (1) Garbha Graham i.e., (Sanctum Sanctorum) (2) the Inner Prakaram (3) the Outer Prakaram and (4) the Outer Platform all around. Both the Mandapams are so designed that the vision of Swamiji in the statue would be seen direct towards the Shripadam.

New Vivekananda Mandapam: The newly constructed Vivekananda Mandapam was dedicated to the youth of India by Swami Ranganathananda at Vivekanandapuram on 6th September, 1988. A huge granite statue of Swami Vivekananda is installed in the exquisite mandapam constructed in black and red granite stones. The Samathi of late Eknath Ranade, founder of Vivekananda Rock Memorial in the front and a beautiful terrace garden behind adorn the mandapam that stands in a pool of water. [44]

Vivekananda Kendra: After raising a National Memorial to Swami Vivekananda at Kanniyakumari, and dedicating it to the Nation on 2 September 1970, the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee resolved to found and run a Service Mission named 'Vivekananda Kendra' with headquarters at Kanniyakumari. This Kendra has before it "Service to Humanity" as its sole motto. The Kendra's Membership is open to every one having the inner urge for selfless service irrespective of colour, creed, sex, community, or way of worship. It strives to establish its units all over the country and abroad with the aim of attracting persons with the urge to serve the humanity, and to mobilise them for various tasks of human welfare, after equipping them with necessary training.

The Kendra also trains from among the youth, a special cadre of workers with a view to building up a non-monastic order of dedicated life

Vivekananda Statue in Vivekananda Mandapam, Kanniyakumari

Sri Padam in Vivekananda Rock, Kanniyakumari

workers (Jeevan Vratics) pledged to life-long service for being deployed in needy areas to work for the economic, social, cultural and spiritual well-being of the people.[45]

The Kendra, in short, trains young graduates, both men and women and able bodied elders, in service to mankind as a pathway to God realisation. This non-Sanyasi order has taken up various service activities all over India as envisaged by Swamiji.

The Kendra–

(i) maintains the Rock Memorial and a 100 acre campus called Vivekanandapuram with residential and other facilities for pilgrims. It also maintains the New Vivekananda Mandapam;

(ii) trains laymen all over India in yoga, and yoga teaching, conducts yoga therapy camps, yoga therapy teachers' training courses and yoga research;

(iii) brings out the monthly magazine Yuva Bharathi and half yearly magazine Kendra Patrika;

(iv) has taken up a large scale rural develolpment programme in Kanniyakumari district;

(v) runs schools at Kanniyakumari;

(vi) maintains free dispensary in Kanniyakumari campus and

(vii) it is also engaged in the socio-economic programmes, nursery schools, nutrition programmes, mobile dispensaries, youth programmes, cultural programmes, industrial training and provision of drinking water in the districts of Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu. Besides, it has undertaken the Natural Resources Development Project (NARDEP) in the above districts.[46]

Managing Committee :[47] The Vivekananda Kendra has been registered under the Societies Registration Act. The Managing Committee which looks after the affairs of the Kendra and the Rock Memorial consists of one President, two Vice-Presidents, one General Secretary, one Joint General Secretary, one Treasurer and 19 Members.

For augmenting funds for its various objects, the Society accepts voluntary contributions from the general public, philanthropists, Governments and other agencies.

Church : There is an old church called Thommai Palli or St. Thomas Church at Kumari Muttom about two kilometres north east of the Cape points. It is now in ruins and only the foundations of the old church are now visible besides present chappel of St. Sebastian. It is said that at the beginning of the 16th century, the Portuguese sailors who passed through the place made their offerings here for a safe voyage. From the Royal edict issued in 1494 A.D., it is known that the church at Kumari Muttom enjoyed certain grants from the harbour dues for lighting the lamps in the church.

The coastal area of the village is inhabited by Paravas and Arasars professing the Catholic faith. Fishing is their main occupation. From the letters of St. Francis Xavier who worked among the villages here, about 1542, it is learnt that the Paravas and the Arasars who lived there were often *plundered* and *pillaged* by the Badgas or Vadugas under the orders of Nayaks of Madurai.[48]

All along the coast, there are many churches, the chief among them being the one to the north of Kanniyakumari temple. It is a lovely Gothic structure of graceful proportions, measuring about 153 feet in length and 53 feet in breadth with the position of the bell 53 feet above the floor level. The Central tower is crowned with a gold cross. The flag staff in front is about 130 feet high. The church with its beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary de Mercode is one of the beautiful Churches in South India. There is a *convent* to the west of the Cape Hotel.

The other important buildings overlooking the sea on the west coast are the Government Guest House, Hotel Tamil Nadu, Kerala House, Devasthanam (H.R. & C.E.) Rest House, Township Lodge, P.W.D. *rooms* and Railway Retiring Rooms. These places provide shelter to the officials and tourists who pay visit to this holy town.

A Higher Secondary School, a Government Dispensary, a Fire Station, a Police Station and a fish curing yard with two research stations, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, and the Madras Fisheries Technological Research Station attached to it, Post Offices and a high level water tank for the supply of drinking water are also located in public interest. There is a Government Fruit Research Station two

Kanniyakumari Church, Kanniyakumari

kilometres from the Cape into the interior on the main road, where several varieties of fine mangoes are cultivated. This was started by the Travancore Royal Family in 1922.[49] The peculiar climatic condition of the place favours the grafting of trees, all through the year.

The offices of the Divisional Engineer (construction), Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Regional Tourism Officer, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation and Kanniyakumari Devasthanam Office are situated here. The Poompuhar Shipping Corporation runs a ferry service to connect the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. The Canara Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, State Bank of India, State Bank of Travancore and Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd., have their branches here.

In Kanniyakumari, a *Township Committee* was constituted on Ist October, 1965. The Chairman of the Committee is the District Collector and the Government have now appointed eleven official and seven non-official members for the Committee. This is striving for the improvement of the Town. This runs three lodges for the benefit of the tourists.

A new railway station has been constructed here in 1979, in accordance with the latest tower model type design, which adds to the attraction of the Cape. Him Sagar Express that has been introduced by the Railways facilitates pilgrims from North to this holy town.

Kanniyakumari Public School, Kanniyakumari Gurukula Ashram, Church of our Lady of Ranson, Kanniyakumari District Sarvodaya Sangam, Vishwa Hindu Vidya Kendra and YMCA Rural Development Centre, are the other institutions situated here.

A new bus stand with all modern amenities, including retiring rooms, has been constructed in 1987 by the Nesamony Transport Corporation for the benefit of the pilgrims.

Kanniyakumari Port:[50] It is a minor port situated between latitude 8°-4.6' and longitude 77°- 33.2' east on the southern most point of India is here. This port serves exclusively for the transport of tourists from Kanniyakumari shore to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Ferries are run between these two points by M/s.Poompuhar Shipping Corportion Limited since 1981. Prior to this it was under private enterprise. Therefore this cannot be said to be a port in the real sense. This port comes under the

Tamil Nadu Port Department which is controlled by the State Transport Department. There is a light house in Kanniyakumari.

(For a detailed note on this, please refer to the Chapter on "Communications")

KUMARAN KOIL (Kalkulam taluk-Population 1114 - M.624 + F.490) : 'Kumaran Koil' is at the foot of the Velimalai hills in Kalkulam taluk, about 15kms. North-west of Nagercoil and three km. east of Thuckalay. It lies in the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram municipality. This place is known for its famous temple dedicated to Lord 'Muruga' otherwise known as 'Kumaran'. The temple is built on the top of a small hill about 200 feet height and faces east and can be reached by a flight of steps. Goddess Valli, the spouse of Subramanya, the presiding deity, is also enshrined in the temple by the side of the main deity. Here, Lord Muruga is in the form of a child. The statue is of a height of 8'8" and the Lord is with Valli only.

The tradition has it to say that Goddess Valli, when she was a child, was found among the creepers (கொடி) in the Velli Malli Hills by Nambi Rajan, the king of the Kurawas wnose domain extended over Vellimalai hills. It was at this place, it is believed, that God Subramanya disguised himself first as a hunter and then as an old man and in final married Valli. Valli, who kept watch over the millet crops was kind and hospitable to the old man. She was astounded, when he revealed to her his love for her. As the disguised old man 'Subramanya' could not influence Valli, he sought the help of his elder brother Lord Ganesh who appeared there as an elephant. Terrified Valli when sought the old man's help, he promised to save her only if she were prepared to marry him. Unwilling to oblige, Valli fainted and later God Subramanya revealed his identity and Valli agreed to marry him as he was her dream lover. Their marriage took place with much pomp.[51] The kalyanamandapam built on the hillock is said to be the actual place, where the marriage of Subramanya and Valli took place. The place where he took rest in the guise of an old man is still known as Kizhavancholai (Kizhavan in Tamil means old man). There is another place in the hill known as Vallicholai. A nearby hamlet is still known by the name Thenaivilai (தினைவிளை).

The Thirukalyanam festival is celebrated in the month of March-April every year in commemoration of the marriage of Valli with Subramanya. It is a colourful function which attracts a large number of devotees. All Fridays especially the last Friday of the Tamil months, are important days

Kumarankoil at the foot of the Velimalai Hills in
Kalkulam Taluk

when devotees throng the temple to worship the Lord. The other important festival is the Car festival falling in the month of May.

KUNNATHOOR (Vilavancode taluk-Population 19297 - M.9.709 + F.9588) : Kunnathoor is a revenue village in Vilavancode taluk on the Marthandam-Thengapatnam Road and it is about seven km. from Marthandam. Here is the famous Odachikotta.

Odachikotta : It is a small stone fortification now in ruins, covering an area of five acres of land and is situated about four km. to the south of the Marthandam-Thengapatnam road. It is said that Rani Odachi, the mother of the famous Thirumalai Nayak of Madurai who invaded Nanjilnad, is said to have lived in this fort which was named as Odachikotta, after her. The recent tradition is that Rani Odachi had no issues for a long time, and on the advice of some priests, she came to Munchirai from Madurai and worshipped Thirumalaiappan, the deity of the local temple. The Fort was then, built at that time for her stay. It is said that the God blessed her with a child who was named Thirumala. When Thirumala Nayak became the ruler of Madurai, he presented a gold crown and other valuables to this temple.[52]

An industrial colony has sprung up at this place, where carpentry and metal work have been taken up. The Carpentry Unit was started in 1958 under the Martham Carpenters Industrial Co-operative Society. Standard articles of furniture are manufactured here for supply to Government offices. In the other unit i.e. Kumari Metal Industries, brass vessels and other utensils are manufactured. Training is also given to a few in the colony.

'Raja Kesava Das' who was the Dewan of Travancore, during 1788- 98, was born near Kunnathoor in a village called Melangulam. There is a house known as 'Karavilakathu Puthenveedu' where the members of the family through the male line still live. The house is said to have been built by Raja Kesava Das himself, while he was the Dewan. An interesting story about Kesava Das is that while he was a lad, he was taken to the place, by his master, a rich merchant, where he had an interview with the king. The merchant completely forgot about the boy when he returned, left leaving him asleep on the lawns of the place. On awaking, the king saw the clumsily dressed boy the sight of whom in the morning he thought was inauspicious and hence ordered a punishment

for the boy. But, soon the King heard the arrival of a cargo loaded ship and he attributed this to his first sight of the boy in the morning. The boy was then ordered to be taken to the royal palace, where he was treated kindly by the king. Later on, he became an efficient administrator in the treasury and was greatly responsible for the success of the king.[53]

During his time, the title of the Chief Minister was changed from Dalava to Dewan. He was the first Dewan of Travancore and later in recognition of his prudence and firm attachment to East India Company, he was honoured with the title "Raja". The weapons such as swords and shield used by him were handed over to the Archaeological Department by the members of his family and are now preserved in the Padmanabhapuram Palace.

KUZHITHURAI (Vilavancode taluk-Population 18,427 - M.9192 + F.9235) : Kuzhithurai, the head quarter of the Vilavancode taluk is one of the ancient towns of the Kanniyakumari district. It is on the banks of the river Tambraparani and the town extends on either side of the river which is also known as the Kuzhithurai river. The bridge over this is the longest and biggest in the district. The town on the right bank is called Kuzhithurai and that on the left is Marthandam. Kuzhithurai is situated halfway between Nagercoil and Trivandrum.

There are various Government offices such as the Civil and the Criminal courts, Office of the Inspector of Police, Veterinary Hospital, Public Works Department offices, TNEB Assistant Engineer, Municipal Commissioner and Deputy Commercial Tax Officer and Vilavancode Taluk Co-operative Mini Super Market, Export Inspection Agency, Telephone Exchange, both offices at Kuzhithurai and Marthandam, Railway Station, Indian Institute of Honey, Honey Marketing Depot, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Kuzhithurai Co-operative Housing Society. Marthandam Beekeepers Co-operative Society, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., and Station Fire office are the other establishments that can be found there.

Near the post office are found an old palace and a chatram. Adjacent to this is a famous temple, where we find two shrines- one dedicated to Lord Siva and the other to Lord Krishna.

This is a prominent town in Kanniyakumari district. Most of nationalised banks such as State Bank of Travancore, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Central Bank, State Bank of India and Tamil Nadu

Mercantile Bank have their branches here. [54] These banking institutions contribute to a greater extent, to the development of trade and commerce and the prosperity of the people. There is a famous market at Thoduvetty, an outlet for the agricultural products of the neighbouring villages. The Nesamony Memorial Christian College, in Marthandam, Devikumari Women's College, a Government Higher Secondary school for boys and two C.M.S. High schools - one for boys and the other for girls, a Government dispensary, Private hospitals, Sub- Registar's office, District Registrar's office, are situated here. [55] Several Primary Schools are also run here. A church has been constructed by the London Missionary Society. Another church has also been constructed to house the headquarters of the Malankara Syrian Catholic church. The Convent of the Daughters of Mary, a convent of prominence is also here. The Convent at Marthandam has nine branches at various places both in the Tamil Nadu and Kerala States.

Thoduvetty is an important cattle market. As the chief marketing centre in the district the Thoduvetty market carries on business in commodities like jaggery. tapioca, plantain, fish, handloom goods, etc. The vegetable as well as the cattle market are under the control of municipality.

The Kuzhithurai river, which divides the town into two, is a perennial source of water supply to the villages. The lands benifited by Kuzhithuraiyar are very fertile and the whole area is dotted with coconut, arecanuts and banana plantations. This river system has been discussed in greater detail in the chapter under the caption "Agriculture and Irrigation."

One of the important institutions at Marthandam is the Young Male Christian Association which carries on a vigorous campaign of rural reconstruction. Their demonstration in the field of agriculture and industry are unique. It also arranges for the marketing of the handicraft products of the neighbouring villages. The Y.M.C.A. also encourages bee-keeping, poultry farming, gur making, *fresh water fish breeding* and cattle breeding. It maintains sheds for sindhi stud bulls and cattle, a large poultry farm and a carpentry unit. Sanan Cows(from Sanan Valley in Switzerland) have been introduced with a view to improve milk supply. Most of the local residents have been provided with employment opportunites in these units.

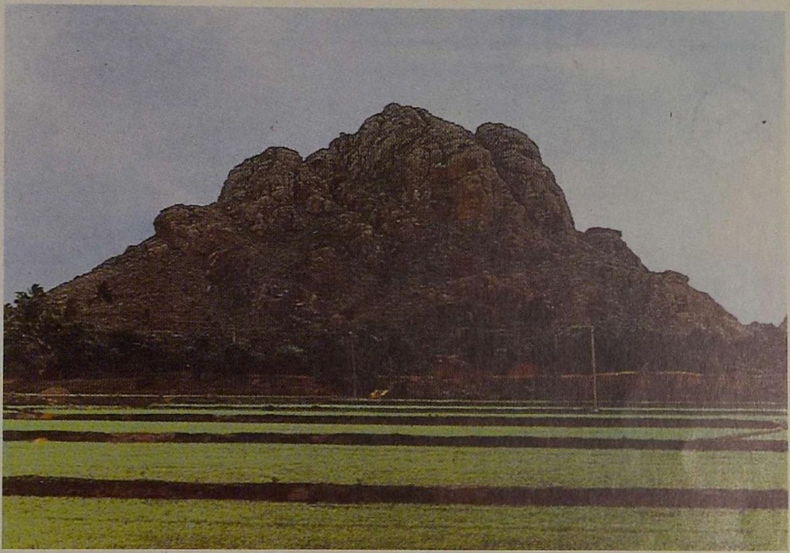
Every year, a grand exhibition called "Varubali Exhibition' is organised at Kuzhithurai by the municipality and this has attained wide importance in the district. A marketing fair is also being conducted here in August. The Municipality also conducts an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in which coconut, arecanut, mango, jack and vegetable seedlings, palmyrah products, pure honey, agricultural implements, earthernwares, fine toys, bell metal, utensils are exhibited.

Kuzhithurai which was constituted as a Town Improvement Committee in 1914 was formed as a full fledged municipality in 1920.[56] The population of the municipal town, as per the 1981 census is 18,427.

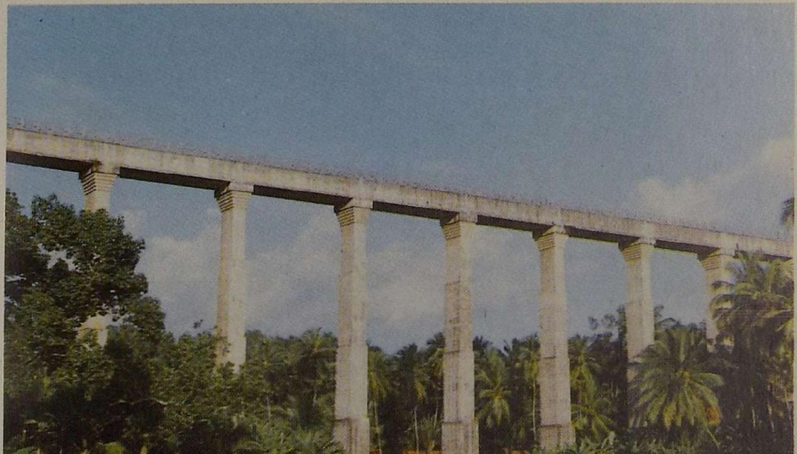
MARUNGOOR (Agasthiswaram taluk-Population 18469 - M.4124 + F.4345) : Marungoor is about 12 km. from Nagercoil and this village is famous for its ancient temple dedicated to God Subramanya. The temple is perched on a high rock and is of great antiquity. The famous annual festival of 'Soorasamhara' in October-November celebrated in this temple, attracts thousands of devotees from the surrounding villages. This village is connected with 'Suchindrum' by a metal road. It is said that sometime back, iron ore was unearthed from a mine in the neighbouring areas of Marungoor and that the manufacture of iron goods was thereafter a thriving industry. Marungoor was one of the earliest Roman Catholic Mission Centres where Fride saa built a church in 1699.

MARUTHENCODE (Vilavancode taluk-forms part of Pacode Rev. Village which has a population of 25,110 - M.12,712 + F.12,398): Maruthencode a hamlet growing into prominence, is situated at a distance of about three km. from Vilavancode taluk headquarters. A village road connects this place to the Kuzhithurai - Alancholai road at Kuzhuvanthittai. The St.Anthony's Church here is very famous and attracts a large gathering especially on Tuesday-everyweek. Close to it, is a C.S.I. Church. The Siva temple here is said to have been constructed some 500 years ago. The fact remains that the temple was built by the Dalave of the Raja of Kayancolam, who came and settled here after the Dalave of the Raja of Kayancolam at the hands of Maharaja Marthanda Varma of Travancore.

The Kasthuribai Kendram instituted at Maruthencode in 1949 propagates the Gandhian principles among the people. It trains the local people in spinning, weaving, dyeing, mat making, soap making and oil extraction. The institution also runs a poor home and orphanage.



A view of Maruthuvamalai, Agastheeswaram



Hanging bridge - side view - Mathur

MARUTHUVA MALAI (Osaravilai hamlet-Population 1026 - M.559 + F. 467) : The Maruthuva Malai also known as the *Marunthu Vazhum Malai* - the abode of medicinal herbs, forms from part of the western ghats. According to tradition, the Maruthuva Malai is a fragment of the Sanjeevi Mountain, a piece of which fell down here, and it was carried by Hanuman from Mahendragiri to Srilanka for healing the fatal wounds of Lakshmana, the brother of Rama, the epic hero. [57] It stretches for more than a km, reaching a height of 800 feet at the highest point. It is about 11km. from Nagercoil and can be reached by a motorable road from Paramarthalingapuram, which is situated on the 11th km. of the Nagercoil-Kanniyakumari road. A large number of devotees frequent the small temple about 300 feet above the hill, during Karthikai Deepam festivals in December. An unbroken scene of surrounding region from this temple, presents a very panoramic view of the landscape below.

From here, we can see the whole coastal area from Leepuram in the Kanniyakumari village to Muttom in Kalkulam taluk, with vast stretches of paddy fields, the estuary of the Manakudy lake at the mouth of the river Pazhayar, steeples of churches and lofty towers of temples, coconut and Palmyrah groves, vast expans of salt spans in the villages of Manakudy, Thamarakulam and Varriyoor.

Mathur Hanging Bridge[58] : The Mathur Hanging Trough is the tallest as well as the longest trough bridge in Asia, having a height of 115 feet and a length of one kilometre. Constructed in 1966, this bridge has become a place of tourist importance and hundreds of tourists visit this place. This is situated in Mathur, hamlet of Aruvikkarai revenue village in Thiruvattar panchayat union.

The bridge has been constructed at Mathur across the river Parazhiyar at a cost of Rs.12.90/- lakhs and the trough canal (Pattanamkal canal) on the bridge carries water for irrigation from one side of a hill to the other side of a hill. The trough has a height of seven feet with a width of seven feet six inches. The canal is being shouldered by 28 huge pillars. By the unrelented efforts of late Thiru K. Kamaraj, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, this canal was constructed as a drought relief measure and for the development of agriculture in Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks.

The details of the bridge are :

Paraziyar Flume Across Pattanamkal Main Canal

Hydraulic Particulars		
1. Length of flume	-	1240 ft. (378.05M)
2. Width	-	7'-6' (2.286 M)
3. Height of trough	-	7'-0 (2.13 M)
4. Full supl. level	-	5'-6/(1.68 M)
5. Free board (3-4)	-	1'-6' (0.46 M)
6. Slope	-	1/1000
7. Velocity	-	5.1 Ft. per second / (1.55M/Sec)
8. Discharge	-	204 C.ft/Sec. (5.78C.Metres/Sec)
9. No. of spans pillars	-	28
10. Length of span	-	40 feet (12.195 M)
11. Bed level, trough at start	-	230.55 (Cms.)
12. Bed level, trough at end	-	229.17 (Cms.)
13. Maximum height above ground level :	-	104'.00 (28 M)
14. Construction cost	-	Rs.12.90 lakhs.

MELPURAM (Vilavancode taluk-Population - 18,832) : It is the headquarters of Melpuram Panchayat Union and is about three kilometres from Kuzhithurai on the Kuzhithurai-Alanchola road. There is a beautiful Roman Catholic Church close to the Union Office building. There is a charitable institution at this place, run by the Fransiscan brothers known as 'Assissi Ashram' called after the great saint and founder of the Fransiscan order St. Francis of Assisi. It serves as a centre for religious functions for the members of the order.

Majority of the population are agricultural labourers and plantation workers. The offices of the Pacode village and Pacode Town Panchayat are situated at Melpuram. Two Government High Schools are also functioning here. One primary co-operative bank serves the people of the locality.[59]

MONDAIKADU (Kalkulam taluk-Manavalakurichi Revenue Village Population 18,723 - M.9557 + F.9166): A village in Kalkulam taluk, Mondaikadu is situated on the sea coast, north-east of Colachel port. It is connected with Nagercoil and Trivandrum by a motorable road. This place is famous for its temple dedicated to Bagavathi Amman. It dates back to the 7th century B.C. The Amman is in the form of anthill which is

Mandaikadu Amman Temple, Mandaikadu

about 12 feet in height and with five heads and believed to be growing gradually.[60] The annual festival called Mondaikadu Kodai is celebrated in March for 10 days[61] and is the main attraction at this place.[62]

The temple, though small attracts a large number of people from all over the district, besides a regular flow of pilgrim from Quilon in Kerala State, about 160 km. from Mondaikadu during the annual festival. Tradition has it, that years ago three men from Quilon, who came to the south on some business, lost their way and wandered about and finally reached the temple in the night thinking it to be a hut of a villager, where they received food from an old woman. When they woke up the next morning they were surprised to see a temple instead of a hut and realised that the old woman who gave them food and shelter was none other than Goddess Bagavathi.

There are several interesting stories on the origin of this temple, the chief among them is that one day a boy who was looking after the cattle, cut the grass. When he did so he saw blood oozing out of the ant-hill. Scared by this, the boy informed this to the villagers who on arrival threw some mud on the place from where the blood came. This grew into an ant-hill. Thereafter, the people of the locality constructed a temple. This temple was called "Mandaikattu Amman", after the place. In the beginning there was no bar on people professing other religion to worship the Goddess. It is believed that the sick are cured if they worship this Goddess.

Poojas held on Tuesdays and Fridays are very important. Lot of women devotees worship on these days. Full moon day of every month is another important day. Every year a grand festival called 'Mandaikadu Kodai' is celebrated in the Tamil month of Masi for 10 days in which the last Tuesday of the month is very important. 'Valiyapadukkai Vizha' is one of the noteworthy functions during this festival.

Salt, pepper, wooden toys, silk cloths, black bangles, the things obtained from the first harvest are some of the offerings made to this deity. Next to the Masi festival, the Adi festival and the special poojas in the month of *Karthigai*, are considered very important. For the *Masi* festival people gather in thousands and thousands.[63]

In the year 1982 there was a major clash between Hindus and Christian Fishermen during festive occasions and the situation was cleverly managed by prompt action by the Police and Revenue Officials under the

leadership of the Collector of Kanniyakumari and they restored normalcy. [64] Later, peace committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Collector, and as and when tense situation anticipated, it is effectively forced and calmed down by the timely intervention of the peace committee, having in mind the smooth conduct of the festival, and also the maintenance of law and order, in public interest. This aspect is discussed in depth in another chapter under the caption "Law and Order and Justice".

MUKKUDAL DAM (Thovalai taluk-Hamlet of Chiramadam Rev. Village population 916 - M.464 + F.452) : For the supply of drinking water to Nagercoil municipal area, the former Travancore Government designed the Mukkudal Water Reservoir and put up an earthern dam between two hillocks near the Chiramadam village in the Thovala taluk. This dam is about 16 kms. from Nagercoil and water is supplied to Nagercoil through pipe lines. The water spread area is about 80 acres and perennial supply of water is made available here as a result of rainfall on the catchment area of the lake. The details of tap connection given and households benefited are narrated in another chapter under the title "Local Self Government".

MUNCHIRAI (Vilavancode taluk-Hamlet of Arudesam Rev. Village which has a population of 17,226, M:8776 + F:8450) : Munchirai is about seven kilometres from Kuzhithurai the headquarters of the Vilavancode taluk, and situated on the Marthandam-Thengapatnam road.

Tradition has it that the temple here has been in existence even when the epic Rama visited Munchirai to investigate the feasibility of constructing a dam (Chirai) across the sea to reach Sri Lanka. As he found the place quite unsuitable, he is said to have given up the idea, and selected Rameswaram for the purpose.

About the 9th century A.D., Munchirai and its surroundings were under the control of the Ay Kings. 'Karunandadakkan" of the Ay dynasty is said to have ruled over this region. An inscription, of this king records the purchase of a land known as *Uzhakudivila* by the king from the sabha of Munchirai and the construction of a Vishnu temple there. The locality around the temple came to be called Parvathisekharapuram. The inscription also reveals that the same king established a *Vedic College* (Salai) with provisions of free boarding, lodging and tuition to about 95 students.

MUTHUKUZHIVAYAL (Kalkulam taluk): This is a health resort situated on a plateau near Pechiparai at an elevation of about 4400 feet above the sea level. It is 50 km. north of Nagercoil. It is said that an European Company started digging operations for gold here at the time of rush for gold in the later half of the 19th century, but soon after abandoned it. A stream of clear water runs through the plateau surrounded by knolls covered with grass and shrubs. The scenery is a combination of grandeur and beauty with its lofty adjacent peaks and magnificent valleys open and undulating grassy slopes from which may be seen vast stretches of forest class hills on the one side and along unbroken lines of sea shore on the other. It is famous for the coffee and tea estates, in which many local residents have been given employment. [66]

The place can be reached only by a step bridle path. A few old buildings said to have been frequented by the Travancore Kings who journeyed over to the place in palanquin, are also found here. A narrow road deep at certain points, connects this plateau. Balamore Estate is half way on the hills on the road and it is a main place of human habitation in this plateau.

Muttom (Kalkulam taluk) : Muttom is a delightful place on the coast of Kalkulam taluk, attracting people desirous of having a seaside holiday. It is 17 km. from Nagercoil Via. Rajakkamangalam and also can be reached from Colachel or Mondaikadu. From the inscriptions belonging to the 18th year of the great Chola king Raja Raja I, found in the rock cut cave temple at Thirunandhikarai, it is learnt that he captured Muttom and renamed it as Mummudi Chola Nallur.[67]

The place is well known to the mariners because of the crocodile rock jutting out into the sea. A fish curing yard and a primary health centre of the Thallakulam development block are located at this place.

A light house has been built in Muttom village which has a range of visibility of 23 nautical miles in average weather conditions. This light house was originally established in 1875 and improved subsequently in 1909.[68]

The year of commissioning of the light house and other important details are as follows[69]:-

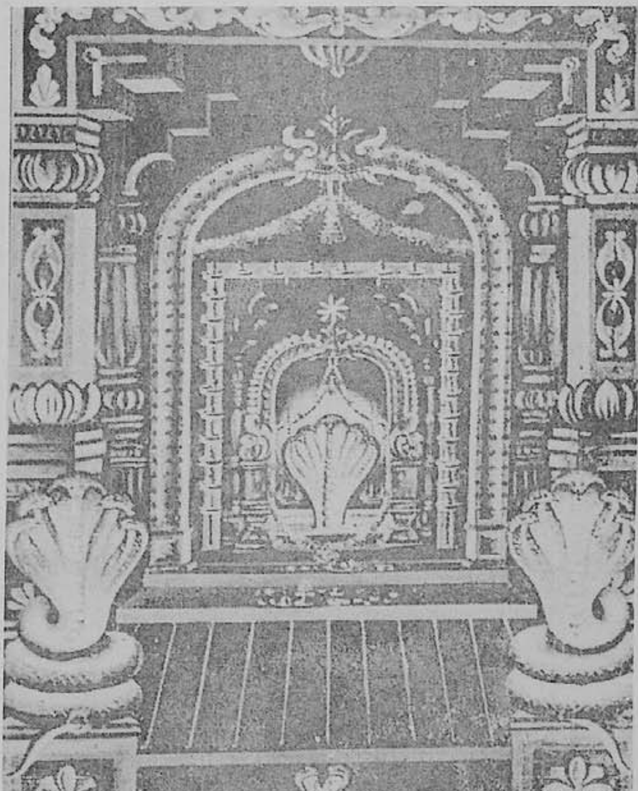
Location - Latitude	8° - 7.4°N.
Longtitude	77° - 19-1° E.
Character –	White single flash Every 5 seconds (0.2 + 4.8 = 5 seconds)
Panels –	4 of 90° each.
Speed of Rotation –	3 R.P.M. (Revolution per minute)
Elevation of focal plane –	42.97 metres.
Optic - SIZE –	2nd order
Focal distance –	700 m.m.

Particulars		*Main Source*	*Emergency Source*
Illuminate –		55 m.m. P.V.burner	Capillarly lamps
Duration of Flash –		0.2 secs.	
Effective Beam Intensing –		3,40,000 cds (Candle Power)	
Divergence	- Horizontal –	4.28 ⁰	
	- Vertical –	4.29 ⁰	
Laminons	- Range –	15 miles (atf-0.60) 22.8 miles(atf - 0.74)	
Geographical Range:		18 miles	
.Commissioned in 1875,			
Present equipment installed in 1909.			

Muttom point light house is exhibited from a 6 sided tower, painted white, with black bands, situated on Muttom point. A grove of palmgarh trees standing on high red ground at an elevation of 85 m (279 ft.) about 1 mile north of the light structures, forms a good landmark, which can usually be seen above the mist, which may obscure the light house. Foul ground with a least depth of 3.2 m(10 ft.) lies about 3 miles WNW (West-North West) of Muttom point, about a mile off-shore and abreast, a church standing on the coast.

MYLAUDY (Agasthiswaram taluk) (Pop.5215 - M.2605 + F. 2610) : This place is about nine kilometres from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil-Anjugramam road. The earliest protestant church in Travancore State was built here in 1810 by Rev. - Ringle Taube.[70] A primary hospital, a

Nagaraja Temple (Nagercoil) - Front view, Nagercoil



Nagaraja Temple (Nagercoil) - Sanctum Sanctorum

high level water tank, a stonecutters co- operative society and an oil producers co-operative society, a primary co-operative bank, one post office, State Bank of Travancore, one Higer Secondary School are situated here. Utensils, etc. carved out of stone are available in the neighbourhood. Fine alters of worksmanship are also made out of red stones said to have been brought from Mysore. A famous public market is also seen here, which attracts the residents of adjoining villages.

NAGERCOIL (Agasthiswaram taluk-population 1,71,648 - M.85872 + F.85776) : Nagercoil is the headquarters of the Kanniyakumari district. It lies at the head of the Aramboly pass about 12km. from it, on the Trivandrum-Tirunelveli road. It is the largest town in Kanniyakumari district.

The name Nagercoil is derived from the five headed serpent deity of the 'Nagaraja' temple which is situated in the heart of the town. It is said that this temple was originally a Jain temple.[71] The temple of Nagaraja is surrounded by paddy fields, flower gardens and coconut groves. The garden is famous for its Naga flower (Couroupita guianensis) a symbolic representation of Nagaraja.[72] The temple with its garden is believed to be guarded by cobras and under that belief no one surreptitiously picks the flowers or coconuts therefrom. Eventhough there are plenty of cobras inside the temple, no fatal case of snake bite has ever occurred any where around the area. This peculiar feature has been corroborated by the Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics compiled by Dr. James Hastings "Snake bite is not fatal within a mile of the temple"(Vol .XI P.418).

Two separate shrines dedicated to Nagaraja and Ananthakrishna are found here.[73] The 'Devajasthamba' is in front of Ananthakrishna. In between these shrines is a 'Linger' decked with angi. On the pillars and walls of the Arthamandapa, are images of Maharaja, Parsavanth and Padmavathy of the Jain religion, with Muruga, Krishna, Padmanabha and Narasimha of the Hindu pantheon. An image of Vinayaka is enshrined in the South west corner of the inner Prakara. Adjoining the shrine of Vinayaka is the Utsavamoorthy with his consorts on either side. In the outer prakara are the shrines of Sastha and of Hegemony Boothatham, who is believed to be the guardian deity of this place. [74] Within the campus is a separate shrine dedicated to Durga with Vaishnavite features. Near this shrine, is a *newly* constructed shrine of Lord Muruga with Vinayaka. The two babool trees surrounded by numerous images of Nagas in front of the shrine, are considered very sacred by women.[75]

People in this district believe that those who worship Nagaraja would lead a healthy life and would not be affected by any disease. Some of the skin diseases that could not be cured by any medicine could be cured it one prayed Nagaraja daily. On Sundays lot of people worship the God here. On Sundays and the days of 'Ayila' ( ) offering milk to Nagaraja is considered very sacred. On Sundays in the month of Avani, this temple wears a festival look. On that day people from the surrounding villages come here and offer milk, salt, and pepper and wooden toys to the deity. Even people belonging to other religions submit their offerings to the God. A grand festival is celebrated for 10 days in the Tamil month of *Thai* every year.[76]

There are two big stone carvings of hydra-headed serpents. On one of the spiral shaped coils we can see the fair saint Parsavanath resting. The legend is that a snake couple killed by the arrogant Malipal listened to the soothing hymns of Parsavanath before they died and were reborn as the snake king and queen in the Mother World. One day when the saint was in deep meditation, his spiritual radiance halted the flight of God Samavara's Car. Annoyed at this, the God caused heavy downpour of rain, but failed in the attempt to disrupt the meditation of Parsavanath. In order to reserve the saint from the rising the floods the snake king Dharanendra spread his hood over him, and his Queen Padmavathy planted a lotus under his feet. The saint, thus rose above the waters and *was saved.* This episode is depicted in the above carvings. Images of snakes, big or small, crowd the shrine all over.[77]

The outstanding feature of temple is that the sanctum sanctorum is surrounded by walls of mud and has over it a simple roof thatched with coconut leaves and bamboo sticks.[78] The legend says that the king of Kalakad had a dream in which Nagaraja intimated to him not to remove thatched roof over the sanctum.[79]

The artistic gateway of the temple represents the typical Malabar style of architecture. An inscription of 1521 A.D. found in the temple testifies that this was changed into a Hindu temple. An annual festival is celebrated every year for 10 days in the Tamil month of Margazhi i.e. December-January, which attracts people from all over the district.

ST.XAVIER CHURCH (Nagercoil)[80] : St.Xavier an outstanding and dedicated priest of the Society of Jesus who threw his lot with the masses, became one among them. Whenever he visited the coastal

areas of Tamil Nadu from Goa, he never missed the opportunity of visiting Kottar in Kanniyakumari district which was a celebrated commercial centre at that time. During his stay at Kottar, he used to worship St. Mary in the small temple. He was popularly known as "Valiya Pandaram" among the people of Kottar. While he was at Kottar, he averted the invasion of Padagas on the people of Venad which was appreciated by the king, who became closer to the Priest. In recognition of Xavier's services, the king allotted a land to him for the purpose of constructing a catholic chruch at Kottar. There was already a church in 1544 in the same place, where the St. Xavier's church stands now.

Along the coast he has built 45 churches. The small chapel of Our Lady which was housed in the Cathedral at Kottar is the most important among them.

The Cathedral at Kottar is a complex of many structures built at various times. It came into prominence after the death of St.Xavier. The church records show that the church was built in the year 1600 A.D. In the year 1865, the Church was enlarged and the shrine of Our Lady was also renovated and vaulted over. In 1930, the church was raised to the status of a Cathedral. The cruciform church has acquired different styles of architecture. The old church of round arches and vaults is Romanesque, the extension with high-pointed arches is of gothic and the fine stone mandapa in front is purely Indian.

In 1942, in commemoration of the fourth centenary of the arrival of St.Xavier in India, a beautiful tower to the saint, a grotto to Our Blessed Mother and a small shrine to St.Ignatius who sent him to India were constructed in the Cathedral premises. In 1955, the church was further extended and the chapel of Our Lady was incorporated into the enlarged church.

The Church of St. Xavier enjoys a great fame as a place of miracles from early times. The annual festival is celebrated during the month of November-December lasting for 10 days. The Car festival in the ninth day is most important. During these festival days the shrine attracts larger crowd of visitors from all over South India.[81]

On 12th March 1622, the Fifteenth Pontiff made Xavier a Saint. From that day onwards, the church was named as St. Francis Xavier's Church. From November 24th to December 3rd of each year, people from various

parts of the district throng in large number at Kottar to pay homage to St.Xavier, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, race or language.

THE HOME CHURCH, (Nagercoil) : The Home Church at Nagercoil is an outstanding example of the architectural achievement of the Missionaries. With the permission of the Maharani of Travancore Rev. Charles Mead, utilised the elephants of Nagaraja temple and the prisoners in the construction of the church, which has been called as "Kallukovil" as it is built with huge stones. On the 14th January, 1819, the foundation stone was laid and the congregation was started in 1836. In the year 1843, the imposing structure in Greek style was completed.

The church is 140 feet long and 70 feet wide including the space of 70' and 20' which form the front verandah and the office rooms in the rear. The Home Church is one of the oldest and biggest of the protestant churches in South India. The edifice can provide accommodation for nearly 2500 people at a time.

Nagercoil owes much to the Christian Missionaries like Church of South India, the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic Missionaries, for its present position particularly in the field of education. In 1818 Rev. Mead of the London Missionary Society started the Nagercoil Seminary at Nagercoil which was the first institution to offer regular instruction in English. In 1893, the Seminary grew into a second grade College, under the University of Madras.

The important education institutions run by the Catholic organisations are the Carmel High School, the St. Joseph's High School for Girls run by the Belgian sisters of the Canonesses of St. Augustine whose headquarters is Bruges in Belgium and the Little Flower High School for Girls run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose mother house is at Pondicherry. The various courses of studies, taught in these institutions, total strength of pupil, standard of education and medium of instruction are dealt with in depth and also various statistical information given in the chapter under the caption "Education".

The Latin Diocese of Kottar has a printing press namely the Assisi Press near the town bus-stand at Vepamood. A Tamil monthly 'Thenoli' is being published by this press.

The activities of the Protestant Missionary started in this part in the early years of the 19th century. The South-Travancore Mission of the London Missionary Society commenced its work in the year 1806 in the districts under Rev. Ringeltaube.

The Church of South India has also under taken various Social Welfare measures for the relief of the poor and the sick. As early as 1838, the Mission undertook medical work in Nagercoil and in 1852 in Neyyoor. The Mission encouraged the starting of a lace Industry in Nagercoil, which in course of time grew into a flourishing cottage industry giving employment opportunities to a number of women. Numerous churches, educational institutions and several boarding houses are run by the Mission. The most prominent among them are the church at Nagercoil, which is the biggest in the district and the Scot Christian College.

The Salvation Army, (founded in 1855 in England by William Borth),another missionary enterprise which started work in Travancore in 1889, secured a firm footing in Krishnan Koil a suburb of Nagercoil in 1892. Later in 1924, it established its headquarters at Trivandrum. The Army has undertaken several welfare measures; as a result the Harijan communities in the district have been greatly benefited especially in the field of education and medical relief. The Army has opened sizeable number of schools and imparted training to many teachers. Women are encouraged to participate in industries particularly in lace and needle work industries and book binding. Now, there are two boarding schools and one English and Middle School at Nagercoil run by the Army. It also runs a handicapped vocational educational centre, at Aralvoimozhi and in this centre, handicapped personnel are given training and as soon as they complete training, they are given employment in the centre itself. The peculiar feature is that manager of the centre is himself handicapped, who is always brisk and going around the centre, in his wheel chair, watching the various activities of the trainees and workers.

In the medical field, the Catherine Booth Hospital founded in 1897 is doing a laudable service at Nagercoil. This hospital is provided with modern equipments. In addition to the hospital, the Army also runs a lace and needle work industrial department unit at Nagercoil.

The Lutheran Mission, founded at Nagercoil in 1907, also carries on welfare work among the backward communities of the district. It has established a church and runs a High School, at Nagercoil. Besides this,

there is a Hindu Religious Library at Nagercoil started in the year 1941 under the auspices of the Travancore Devaswam Department. The library has more than 2000 books in English, Malayalam, Tamil, Sanskrit and Hindi. Navarathri festival is celebrated here for 10 days in September-October and a four days religious convention is also held every year.

Sadavadani Sheiku Thambi Pavalar : Kottar, in Kanniyakumari district has produced several scholars. A very popular and intellectual among them was Sadavadani Sheik Thambi Pavalar. Pavalar in short, a doyen among the Tamil scholars (Sadavadani refers to a person skilled in attending to numerous things at a time). Pavalar was a disciple of Sankaranarayana Pattaria a Tamil Scholar in Kottar. Pavalar was an authority on Kamba Ramayana and by his 15th year he had become a master of Tamil language. Among his several works in Tamil, Tirukkottatru Pathi, Tirupattu Anthaathi, and Tirunaagoor Tiruvanthaathi are most important. He also wrote commentaries on Seerapuranam, which contains 5027 poems.

Pavalar was a faithful lover of Swami Ramalinga Swamigal whose poems were criticised as Marutpa (and not Arutpa) by a few scholars. Pavalar described them as Arutpa. This view was finally accepted and on this victory several titles like Devamirtha Prasanka Kalanchiyam were conferred on him. Among his disciples Sasthankutty Pillai, and Pavalar Manickavasagam Pillai are very famous. A memorial has been erected in honour of Sadavathani Sheikuthambi Pavalar here.

The Mohammadans live mostly in Aripputheru in Kottar, in the Nagercoil village and Elankada in the Vadiveswaram village, where they have four mosques. They live scattered in the densely populated area of Vadessery. The old mosque for the Muslims has been rebuilt. Muslims at Edalakudy follow the Ahamedia Movement in Islam and they have a mosque of their own at Edalakudy. At the centre of the town is a five clock tower, from which point, radiates four roads to four different directions.

There are seven colleges at Nagercoil viz. The Scot Christian College, Women's Christian college, the Holy Cross College for Women, the Hindu college, Shri Ayyappa College for Women, Pioneer Kumarasamy College and Sivanthi Adhithan College (Self Financing). The other educational institutions in the town run by private agencies are the Scott Christian High School, the Duthie High School for girls, Little

Flower High School for girls, St.Joseph's convent High School, the Carmel High School and the Concordia (Lutheran Mission) High School, the S.L.B. High School situated near the district and Sessions court on an elevated ground with its massive two storeyed buildings present an imposing sight from the road below. The building, out houses, and play grounds are situated in an area of over 25 acres. There is also a Teacher's Training School. A number of primary schools are also run here. The total strength of students and other details such as subjects taught etc., are given in the chapter under the title "Education".

The Office of the Revenue Divisional Officer and some other offices of the Revenue and allied departments are located in the Ramavarmapuram Palace, which was formerly the temporary residence of the Travancore kings when they toured over South Travancore.

All the district offices like the District and Sessions Court, the Court of the District Magistrate, the District and the Second Class Magistrate's Courts, The District Treasury Office, District Agricultural Office, Local Fund Audit Office, Office of the District Registrar of Co-operative Societies, District statistical Office, District Employment Exchange, Village Industries Office, District Registrar's Office, Office of the Conservator of Forests, Inspector of Central Excise, Deputy Superintendent of Salt, etc. are located here.

The district is well served by the communication network. There are regular Nesamony Transport Corporation buses covering the whole of the district. The Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation buses connect places like Madras, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Madurai etc. A very good town bus service also serves the people here.

There is a Radio Station and one T.V.Relay Centre established here in 1984 and 1987 respectively. More details about these, are available in the chapter under the head "Communication".

Nagercoil has been a municipal town, since 1920. Its status was upgraded as selection grade in the year 1978.[83] It is the biggest municipality in the district, with an area of 24.27 sq.km. The population of the town is 1,71,648 as per 1981 census. The municipality attends to sanitation, health, light etc. The town has a protected water supply. The water works known as the "Marthandavarma Water Works, Nagercoil," was completed during the year 1945. The source of supply is an impounded reservoir, at Mukkudal, about 16 km. north west of the town.

The municipality runs an allopathic hospital, 10 maternity and child welfare centres and a Family Welfare Centre.[84] There is also Government hospital for tuberculosis, besides the Holy Cross Dispensary and the district headquarters hospital. Further details about these hospitals have been given in the chapter under the caption "Medical and Public Health Services".

The district headquarters of the Armed Reserve Police and the Fire Brigade are located at Nagercoil. There are two Tourist Bungalows viz., Vadasery, P.W.D. Bungalow and Sri Ramavarmapuram rest house.

Nagercoil has developed considerably in recent years with a number of new and modern buildings, particularly in outskirts of the town. The various parts of Nagercoil are Kottar, Vadasseri, Vadiveeswaram, Krishnan Koil, Kamanputhoor and Ozhiginasery. There is an office of the Rubber Board, under the control of the Government of India, an Office of the Conservator of Forests for Rubber Plantations and an Arasu Rubber Corporation, a Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking. A Railway Station caters to the needs of the tourists and the local public. An interesting feature here is the existence of the old "Anchal" (அஞ்சல் box used at the time of Raja Rama Varma in 1784, erected in front of the collectorate-previously Raja Rama Varma's palace. This bears ample testimony to the fact that the postal system existed even at the beginning of the 18th Century.

Kottar: Kottar an ancient city is a part of Nagercoil but forms the oldest part. This part of the town was a flourishing centre of commerce from a very early past and Ptolemy (A.D.150) mentions Kottiara as a metropolis with considerable trade, while Pliny calls the town Kottara, which is a nearer approximation to its correct present-day designation.[85] The part of town is still a centre of trade and industry.

Neyyoor (Kalkulam taluk - Hamlet of Rev. Village Eraniel- Population 27,693-M.13863 + F.13830): It is situated about 19 km. from Nagercoil and about three kilometres from Monday Market on the Azhagiamandapam - Colachel branch road. This place is very famous because of the K.K.Medical Mission Hospital, which is also known as the Neyyoor hospital. It originated from the institutions established by the South Travancore Medical Mission in 1838, when modern medicines were beyond the reach of the rural people. All branches of surgery like urological-gastric, orthopaedic, plastic and gynaecological surgery are

Padmanabhapuram Palace

undertaken in this hospital by specialists. The operation theatre in this hospital is one of the best equipped in the State. Modern methods of treatments are applied to the patients suffering from mental derangement. This hospital is a post-graduate surgical training centre recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of England for the training of House Surgeons, Casuality Officers and Surgical Registrars for the final F.R.C.S. examination. A School of Nursing is also attached to this hospital. There are two churches - one a Roman Catholic church and another the church of South India.

A college, viz., Lakshmipuram College of Arts and Science, a co-educational institution, under Government care has been started here. A Government Girls' High School, L.M.S. Girls' Higher Secondary School and a few Primary Schools are run by private management.[86] The total strength of these institutions, subjects taught and other details are given in the chapter under the caption "Education".

OLAKKAYARUVI (Thovala taluk - Hamlet of Azhagiapandipuram-Population 12,303 - M.6240 + F.6063) : Olakkayaruvi water falls in the Western Ghats is about eight kilometres, north of Azhagiapandipuram and about 14 km. from Nagercoil.[87] The beautiful water falls and the natural scenery all around the place attracts many holiday seekers and thus this place has become an important picnic centre. An altar connected with the sage Agasthiar near the falls attracts a large number of religious minded people on full moon days of the month of *Chithirai* (April-May) and they worship the altar, after a bath in the falls.

PADMANABHAPURAM (Pop. 18,246 - M.9156 + F.9090): Within a mile of Udhayagiri Fort, is the famous old Padmanabhapuram Fort the old capital of Travancore. The information as to when the capital was changed from Thiruvithankodu is not definitely known, but Padmanabhapuram came into great prominance during the reign of Marthanda Varma, the Great, who had his residence there. There is a shrine within the palace, which attracts the visitors. The place has an underground passage leading beneath the fort walls out into one of the surrounding paddy lands. This was used as an escape, in the days when attacks from feudatory chiefs or foreigners were more or less common.

The Padmanabhapuram palace is one of the most historical places in Travancore. As the seat of Government, it was used by various Rajas. Momentus events took place there. The most often recounted story is the one which tells of the attack on Raja Marthanda Varma by the Ettuvittil

Pillamars and their two leaders Pappu Thampy and Raman.Thampy. The two Thampys were sons of the late Raja and the eldest did his utmost to gain the throne, and even by making representations before the Nawab of Trichinopoly. The rising popularity of Marthanda Varma infuriated the Tambys and the Pillamars and hence they plotted to kill Marthanda Varma. Seizing their secret communication viz., the cadjan olai sent by them, to other conspirants, the king made them arrest after killing two of them (Thampys) when they made an attempt on his life. Later he conducted a judicial inquiry in respect of the Pillamars who conspired to kill the king. They accepted their crime during enquiry, and, therefore, they were punished to death and their houses were raided and properties confiscated.[88]

Padmanabhapuram Palace[89] : The ancient historical town Padmanabhapuram one of the four municipalities in the district is 55 km. south of Trivandrum, about two km. east of Thuckalai and 35 km. from Kanniyakumari on the Trivandrum-Cape Comerin road. This town is surrounded by a fort with an area of 187 acres. The ancient capital of Travancore might be constructed before AD 1601. The palace with an area of seven acres, is situated in the very centre of the Padmanabhapuram Fort, amidst hills, dales and rivers. Up to 1744, the fort and the palace were called Kalkulam Kottai and Kalkulam Kottaram respectively. Since the dedication of the palace to Sree Padmanabha in AD 1744 the Fort and Palace were known as Padmanabhapuram Fort and Palace respectively. On the eastern side of the fort lies Vellimalai. 'It is one of the rare archaeological museums containing five architectural pieces, beautiful sculptures, rare coins, mural paintings, and weapons of war'. The palace which is situated in Kanniyakumari district is under the control of a Curator of the Archaeological Department of Kerala Government. The art and architecture of the palace is of Kerala origin and atmosphere. Padmanabhapuram was the capital of Venad rulers i.e. the erstwhile Travancore State, till the closing years of the reign of Karthika Thirunal Rama Varma.

The fort which was built with mud originally was dismantled and reconstructed with granite by Maharaja Marthanda Varma. The height of the walls varies from 15' to 24' according to the inclination of the ground. Besides the four main gateways, one on each side, there are also some small entrances for emergency use. At the four corners of the fort, there are four main bastions. "The fortress testifies to the strategic glory of the

mighty Travancore rulers and to the engineering skill of the builders of the period"

Entrance Hall : The essential feature of an old Kerala House the Padipura, retains its imposing appearance in the palace which leads to the garden in front, with an oval lawn at the centre and pathway around. The entrance to the main edifice is controlled by another ornamental gateway with retainers for watch and ward. The gabled entrance has wooden ceiling profusely ornamented with lotus medallions, the monolithic granite cot assembled from seven pieces of black granite, the geneological table of the rulers of the erstwhile Travancore State and the painting on wooden bows presented to the ruling sovereigns on significant occasions are the extra attractions in the hall. The most striking feature of the entrance is the clock-tower which is one of the oldest in India and was erected in 1832 A.D. still continues to be in working order.

The first floor of the Poomuham has a council chamber or Mantrasala which is meant for holding discussions with ministers and prominent citizens. Special seats are provided for the sovereign and his chief advisers and built in seats supported by Vyalis or mythical lines for the local dignitaries. Wooden louvers have been provided for good air which facilitates keeping of constant temperature inside the hall. The upper part of the louver is curved outward and the planks of the lower pass through sinuated and strong studs which links the caves of the roof to the railing wall below. The wall is supported by ornamental pillars. The floor of this hall, which is polished with the admixture of coconut shell ashes, eggs fermented in molasses and lime reflects the figure like a mirror. Next to the Mantrasala is the Dancing Hall which was used exclusively for the members of the royal family.

Adjacent to the Council Chamber and to the south of dancing hall is the dining hall called "Uttipura", with two floors (the ground and the first) each measuring roughly 78 by 6 metres and it would accommodate about 2000 people at a time. Poor feeding of about 2000 persons, it is said, was done here every day and so the king was called "Dharmaraja". The complicated nature of its roof is on the lines of the couple rafler roof adopted in China and such other countries, which have heavy rainfall alternated by drought.

'Thaikottaram' known as Mother Palace, said to be the oldest of all edifices in the palace contains 'Ekanta Mantapa' which is built of finely

carved wooden pillars and decorated with specimens of indigenous wood carving. The worship of Durga is conducted here every year for 41 days in November-December. The building is in quadrangular structure and in the traditionally typical style of 'Nalukettu' (Four houses) with a Nadumittam (a central open courtyard) in the centre.

Uppirika Malika : The most attractive building in the whole palace is the 'Uppirika Malika' which consists of three storeys. 'Uppirika' is the abbreviated term of 'Muppirika' which means the residence of the eldest member of the family. A wooden cot is erected on the top most floor in the belief that "Lord Vishnu" the chief deity, would recline on it every day.

The first floor contains a wooden cot made of 64 medicinal plants, on which Maharaja used to sleep. In the second storey, could be seen another ordinary cot which was used by the Maharaja occasionally. The medicinal cot was presented to Maharaja "Marthanda Varma" by the Dutch East India Company in 1750, as a mark of friendship.[90]

Another fascinating feature in this top most floor is the availability of murals datable to 17th-18th centuries AD This is hailed as 'the Ajantha of Travancore' which dates back to 17th- 18th centuries AD which had been the Puja Room'of the Maharaja. The atmosphere and background of these paintings, are permeated with religious concepts, human emotions and passions. The ingredients used for these painting works were leaves of certain plants. These paintings of the 18th century form a precious artistic; heritage of Kerala.

Another beautiful edifice in the Palace is the Indra vilas palace which was built by Dalavoy Ramayyan, the Dewan of Maharaja Marthanda Varma. The ruler interviewed here, the distinguished persons and was used as a guest house for foreign visitors.

The hall of historical paintings called "Chitralaya" is the longest edifice in the palace. Several oil paintings duly framed, have been hung in the hall. The most significant among them are the paintings in which Captain D'Lanoy of the Dutch army surrenders to Maharaja Marthanda Varma who came out with flying colours in the famous Colachel war.

The Navarathri Mandapa : To the west of the Uppirika Mandapa is the Navarathri Mandapa which is a spacious hall of exquisitely beautiful granite pillars with drooping pendants reminiscent of the Nayakar style of architecture. This Mandapa is in front of the Saraswathi shrine which is

connected by a pillared verandah called Namaskara Mandapa. The whole structure is decorated with figures of Hindu Gods and Goddess and temple servants and display the remarkable skill of indegenous craftsmanship. In the Navarathri Mandapa, performances of Bharatha Natya and musical recitals took place in the royal presence. The wooden edifices on the eastern and southern sides of the mandapa were the private apartments for the ladies of the royal family to witness the dance and other performances in the mandapa. These are shut off from public view by carved shutters and screens, to maintain privacy.[91]

The Secretariat and the record rooms used in olden days and the special arrangements for them in the Chandra Vilosam palace and adjacent rooms are specially noteworthy. The carved wooden tables attached to the walls with provision to keep the records in serial order under them bear ample testimony to the methodical ways in which the State business was transacted in those days. There is an underground passage of three km. from this palace to another palace at Charode which the family of the King could use as a means of escape at this time of danger. This secret passage goes under the river Valliyur.

The indegenous weapons utilised for war, the modern weapons captured from the Dutch invaders in the famous battle of Colachel in 1741 and the instruments used for torturing the criminals are preserved very carefully in the Armoury Hall, in glassed wooden bureau.

The Palace, once the scene of brisk and lively activity, has to-day only its magnifiscent edifies secular and religious to bring to light its importance at the time of hectic activity in 17th- 18th centuries. The palace which takes us to the period of Venad Kingdom brings to light information about their social, religious and political history.[92] "It may be considered as one of the storehouses of the richest specimens of Indian art and architecture in stone and wood."

PARAKUNTU (Vilavancode taluk - hamlet of Pacode Rev. Village which has a population of 25,110 - M. 12,712 + F. 12,398): Parakuntu is about 3 km. from Maruthencode. Here is a beautiful Catholic Church built in Dravidian architectural style resembling South Indian Hindu temples. It has a fine stupa over the altar. The pillars are in black stone inside, resembling the carved stone pillars of Hindu temples.[93] It has big marble windows covered by marble fret work, which evoke much admiration.

An industrial school for weaving and tailoring is run by a private management and a palmgur co-operative society to help the tappers of the locality. The Parakuntu Palmgur Co-operative Society started in 1954 takes every effort to improve the condition of those engaged in tapping sweet palmyrah juice. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission assists the Co-operative Society, by supplying improved pans for boiling the juice. The Society is equipped with machinery for producing refined palm sugar on a large scale confectionery and aerated beverages from palm juice. It also organises the marketing of jaggery on a co-operative basis.

PECHIPARAI DAM (Kalkulam taluk - hamlet of Kaliel Rev. Village which has a population of 17,219 - M. 8724 + F. 8495): About 43 km. from Nagercoil this dam has been constructed. This dam in Kalkulam Taluk, was built during the days of the Maharaja Sri Moolam Thirunal across the river Kodayar.[94] The construction of the dam was designed on the pattern of the Periyar dam in the Madurai district. The length of the dam is 425.1 mts. It has a catchment area of 204.8 sq.km. There is a camp shed provided at the dam side for the visitors. The weather is very pleasant and hence attracts a large number of tourists.

The reservoir is surrounded by dense forests which are famous for their valuable trees and rich wild life such as tiger, elephants, deer etc. The lake surrounded by dense forests with the high mountain peaks as its background, gives a panoramic view. The reservoir is rich with plenty of fish. The Public Works Department has made arrangements for boating for the tourists.

A hill tribe, small in number known as 'Kanikars' dwell in the dense forests around the lake. Their ways of life, dressing, language, etc., are still primive. They are short but not sturdy. Basket making, fishing and honey collection are their main occupation. For the upliftment of these primitive people, the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department of the Government has taken special measures. A residential school for Kani children has been established at Pechippara. They are also given training in rural industries, weaving and tailoring. A bee-keeping centre has also been set up at this place.

PUTHUKADA (Vilavancode taluk - Population. 9440): A small village in the Munchirai panchayat union area, Pudukkada is situated about seven kilometre south of Marthandam on the Marthandam-Thengapattinam road. It is a meeting place for the three

villages viz., Kunnathoor, Arudesam and Painkulam. Here, a children's museum attached to the Roman Catholic Church at Puthukada is maintained by the Missionaries of the convent here. The children's museum has a rare collection of stamps, coins, sea-shells, wax models of utensils, fruits, vegetables, etc.

Puthukada is an important business centre where a daily market is functioning for the people of the locality. It is said that 'Raja Kesava Das' the first Dewan of Travancore, brought merchants from far and near and developed the commerce of Puthukada as was done in Kottar and Allepy. Cocount oil crushing is the chief industry of this place and a co-operative society is functioning by the Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Besides a Police Station, a Post and Telegraph Office is also functioning here. There are a few recreation centres with children's park. An artificial insemination centre is functioing here, for increasing the breed of the cattle of this locality. A Poultry Breeder's Association organised at block level is located near the insemination centre. There is a High School run by the private management.

SUCHINDRUM[95] (Population 6649 - M. 3267 + F. 3382) : Suchindrum is a small village about 12 km. from Kanniyakumari and about seven kilometres from Nagercoil. This holy place is located on the banks of the river Paẓhayar, adjoining fertile fields and coconut groves and the temple is dedicated to Sri Sthanumalaya. The word denotes Siva, Vishnu and Brahmma as. Sthan represents Siva, Mal represents Vishnu while Ayan represents Brhamma i.e. Siva, Vishnu and Brhamma in_ *"One Form".*

Suchindrum means the place where Indra attained 'Suchi' i.e., purification. The Sthalapurana has it that Indra suffered a curse from sage Gowthama, when he stealthily cast amorous glances at Ahalya the wife of Gowthama. Not able to suffer the mortification brought about by the curse, Indra had to seek immediate redemption. He came to 'Gnana Aranya' as this place was then called and offered worship to Lord Shiva. Relieving Indra of his curse, Lord Shiva granted him of his wish that the place where he attained purification should henceforth be called 'Suchindrum'.

Another story goes to say that the Trimurthys i.e. Brhamma, Vishnu and Shiva, cajoled by their divine consorts came down to the earth to test the chastity of Anusuya, wife of sage Athri at Gnana Aranya. The Gods for this misadventure had to suffer a curse from the Rishipatni and to

undergo the purifcation process, before they could be restored to their former glory.

It is said that Sthanumalaya Swamy temple is the only shrine dedicated to the Trinity in India. The present structure of the temple is the work of a number of persons spread over a number of centuries. It is a complex of many beautiful structures constructed at various times and is one of the best specimens and a store house of the Dravidan style of art and architecture.

The First Entrance : At the entrance is found two sculptured yalis immediately behind which are two figures facing each other. Both these personages seen at the entrance are believed to have played a leading role in the collection of funds for the construction of Sribalipura. It is said that these two are erected by the people of the locality as a mark of gratitude to them.

The Gopura : The 'Gopura' is said to have been constructed in 1545 AD by the Vijayanagara General Vithala Maharaja and his brother. As a lightning struck it, the renovation work of the Gopuram was started in 1880 and completed in 1888. The height of the Gopura from the ground level to the top of Kalasams is 134'6" (about 90' in length and 60' in width). It is beautifully proportioned and the entire outside is embosed with figures from various legends and puranas.

It is a seven storeyed gopura and inside each tier are mural paintings from Ramayana and Stalapurana. The view from the top of the tower is unique and it exposes the scenic beauty of the surrounding places.

Natakasala : Said to be constructed between the period of 1797 and AD 1819 with the help of the contributions from the devadasis, the 'Natakasala' is a magnificent pavilion. It is 124 feet long, 32 feet wide rising 24 feet from the ground level. In the past, dancing and dramatic performances were staged there by the devadasis.

The ceiling of the Natakasala presents a wide variety of floral designs skillfully carved in stone. Near the door can be seen three sculptured figures of Saraswathi, Lakshmi and Parvathi performing penance for getting back their husbands. The image of Nandikeswarar, Sasta, Nataraja and Kali found near the staircase are marvellous pieces of art.

Arulmigu Sthanumalaya Moorthy, Suchindrum

Arulmigu Anjaneya-Suchindrum

Ganesani - Suchindrum Temple

Unchal Mandapa : Next is found the 'Unchal Mandapa' a rectangular pavilion of stone 30'6" long and 28', 4" broad which stands on the terrace $2\frac{1}{2}$' raised from the ground level. The ceiling is 24' high. Beautiful carvings of Manmatha, Rathi, Arjuna and Karna can be seen on the four corner pillars. These sculptures are supreme in artistic beauty. A raised platfrom measuring 12' by $8\frac{1}{2}$' utilised for Thirukalyana festival is centrally located.

Near the entrance of the Eastern Sripalipura, on the right side, there is a shrine of Dakshinamoorthy in Sukhasana. Then, we enter into the Eastern Sribalipura.

Vasantha Mandapa: The new "Vasantha Mandapa" was erected in the 17th century by Matukuty Malayamma of Parakai. It is a splendidly constructed pavilion 24' long and 21'9" wide which still stands as a monument of art. In its centre, is a raised platform of stone 19' long $16\frac{1}{2}$' wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$' high. From Panguni Utra to the commencement of Chithirai Utsava, the images of Suchindra Perumal are kept on the platform to get the free flow of breeze. The concave passage round the base is filled with fresh cold water to produce cooling effect.

A skillfully executed piece of architectural sculpture adorn the ceiling of the pavilion. The square space is intersected into nine small squares by slender beams of stone resembling wooden rafters. The small squares present elegantly carved figures of the Navagrahs, unlike other temples at the top of the ceiling. On the four pillars, there are beautiful sculptures of the deities.

Neelakanta Vinayagar : To the west of Vasantha Mandapa, there is a huge image of 'Ganapathy' carved in stone. It is said that the temple had been set up in AD 1587 by Purushothamar Neelakantar, one of the Nine Yogakkars of the temple and hence called "Neelakanta Vinayakar". The ten armed posture of the deity in sitting positition with a height more than six feet,is justly described as 'Maha Ganapathy'and "Mukkuruni Pillayar". The outermost left arm embraces the figure of "Sakthi Devi" seated on the lap of God.

Madappalli and Uthipura: 'Madappalli' means 'the cooking place'. while 'Uthipura' refers to feeding hall. The kitchen is 82' long and $18\frac{1}{2}$' wide, situated at the south eastern corner of and is very spacious. During Mahotsawas, free feeding was done in the southern western side of

Sribalipuras. In this feeding house, free food was given twice everyday, throughout the year. The Uthipura is said to have been established in AD 1772 following the glorious traditions of ancient Chera kings.

Sribalipura : In the southern 'Sribalipura, an imposing pillared hall, more elegant than the Eastern Sribalipura, can be seen. Excepting the Eastern Sribalipura, all the other three were constructed by Karthika Thirunal Maharaja during AD 1795 Before this construction, there existed a smaller Sribalipura. The southern corridar of the newly constructed Sribalipura is 303' 6". long with a width and height of 26', 9" and 21' respectively. There are two long rows of well carved massive pillars on both sides of the Sribalipura. Wooden hanging rooms are built in the southern side of the Sribalipura with small ventilaters. The royal members of the erstwhile Travancore State had witnessed the dance performances of the devadasis and the grand feast given to the poor from the said hanging room.

To the west of Nilakanta Vinayakar koil, stands the Kankalanather shrine where Kankalanather is in the begging form of Lord Shiva known as Bhishadana Moorthy. This bronze image might belong to the earlier age, probably to the chola epoch.

A few metres to the west of Kankalanather koil lies a huge piece of rock on the face of which appear numerous inscriptions in vatteluthu script and Tamil language. After climbing up a few steps, we reach the temple. A remarkable feature about the shrine is that it faces west. Opposite to it, are the Sivalinga and Nandi. The linga and the peeta are carved out of the rock, which cannot be separated. The pattern of garbhagriha, Mukha Mandapa and the porch stretching in front of the shrine speak volumes about the construction, which goes back to the fifth century AD.

At the western most part of the southern Sribalipura, we find a shrine of 'Sasta' (LORD AYYAPPA) about 3 feet high. Now, a small shrine of Vinayaka is also seen there, on its south.

At the northern corner of the western corridor there exists 'Ramaswamy Koil'. where can be seen the charming figures of 'Rama' and 'Sita' hardly 1 foot 9 inches in height and in the Sikhasana pose. On the south of the entrance, the idol of 'Lakhmana' and on the north, that of the "Hanuman' can be seen with folded hands in anjali. The length of the

western corridor is 227 feet length 76 feet less than that of southern Sribalipura.

The shrine of the 'Subramania Swamy' koil is said to have been built in 1238 AD. The portico is elaborately carved. Dwarapalakas which are in dancing pose, have intricate carvings. Their head-dress, the armour, the favels and the drapery all are well carved. The appearance of the sculpture is demon like and awesome to behold.

The image of 'Subramania' which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height is in the Samapada Sthanaka pose. On either side of this, is seen 'Valli' and 'Devasena' each 3 ft. in height. Near the door, a pair of lady lamp bearers one in each side of the entrance can be seen. As per the legends, the figures are of 'Sitamma' and her mother 'Malikkutty' who arranged for the construction of the porch. At the western end of the porch, there is a short figure, sculptured in the Padmasana pose. A nail is struck on the outspread palm of his right hand which furnishes a clue to the proper identification of the figure. During the reign of Balamarthanda Varma of Travancore (AD 1798-1810) an employee of Suchindrum temple treasury was found guilty of fabrication of the accounts, Velu Thambi Dalava, the relentless minister after knowing this ordered a cruel punishment of driving a nail into the palm of the culprit in order to inculcate a sense of moral fear in the minds of the other employees.

Behind the shrine of Subramania swamy, there are six small shrines known as Jayantheeswara shrines dedicated to 'Mahadeva', 'Narayana', 'Rameswara', 'Krishna', 'Srichakra' and 'Durgai'. As it is said that the Pandavas visited Gnanaranya during their Vanavasa and worshipped the deities of Jayantheeswara temples, these are also known as the Pancha Pandava temple. The shrine was founded in AD 1593.

About the middle of the northern Sribalipura, we find the shrine of 'Kala Bhairawar', facing south, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, which is one of the guardian deities of the temple.

On the south side of Kala Bhairavar, near it, stand four marvellous pillars called musical pillars. There are four groups of pillars two on the north and two on the south standing parellel to each other. The two groups in the north, present each a cluster of 24 pillars while the southern side present each a cluster of 33. All the pillars are exquisitely carved and chiselled out of a single block of granite. It is a display of splendid workmanship. One can hear the melodious musical tunes from

these pillars, when it is gently tapped. They are examples of marvellous architectural skill, of the stapathis of those days. These pillars were erected during the year AD 1798.

The raised platform stretched between northern Sribalipura and Vira Pandiyan Mani Mandapa is known as Kulasekara Mandapa. The two southern group of musical pillars form the northern side of the Kulashekhara Mandapa.

The portion east of the musical pillars of the west row, is known as 'Alankara Mandapa' which is much wider than Sribalipura, having a width of 37 ft. 3 inches. Some Vahanas are decorated here.

Anjaneya : The huge image of 'Hanuman' (Anjaneya) in the form of his Viswarupa Darsan given to Sita at the Ashoka forest of Sri Lanka as described in Ramayana stands to the eastern most corner of northern Corridor. The image is 18 ft. 4 inches in height carved exquisitely out of polished stone. Being a marvellous, sculptural skill, it ranks first among the huge images of Hanuman found in the whole of India. The Hanuman is facing Ramaswamy koil at the western end, with folded hands in anjali.

Chitra Sabha : To the right of the image of Hanuman, is the east Sribalipura. On the north side of it is an edifice of the Chitra Sabha facing south 43 feet 6 inches long and 42 feet 6 inches broad. The entrance and other parts of the sabha is decorated with elegantly carved monolithic sculptures on all the four sides of the Sabha. We could see different sculptures of different sizes and different poses.

A courtyard east of Chitra Sabha seperates the shrine of Devendra Vinayahar. It is believed that the repentant Devendra, before he punished himself by bathing in boiling ghee as ordained by the Trimurthis, worshipped this Ganapathy. The image which is in sitting posture, is about 1 ½ feet in height.

On the east wing of the eastern Sribalipura from north, we can find a Vahanapura, to Makkalai (Nandi) and the shrines of Konnai Adi Nathar and of Garudalwar. This Nandi, the second biggest in India, is bigger than the one in the Brihadeeswara temple at Thanjavur and is 21 ft. in length and 12 feet 8 inches and 9 feet 6 inches in height and width respectively. Facing the main temple and South of Nandi, is the Konnaiadi Nather, the earliest image of worship. In the hollow at the top of the Konnai (laural) tree the three lingas sprout one above the other which can be seen more

clearly at the time of abyseha. South of this can be seen the shrine of Garudalvar, where the image of Garudalvar faces Thekkadam Perumal, standing with his hands clasped in anjali.

Another excellent piece of art is the Chenpakarama Mandapa, a magnificent pavilion, measuring 110 feet by 85 feet 3 inches at a height of 32 feet. Two rows of massive pillars display their artistic beauty.

In front of the Konnaiadinathar and Garudalvar the porch west of eastern Sribalipura is known as the Aditya Mandapa, also known as the Dhvajasthamba Mandapa. On the west it joins with a great Chenpakaraman Mandapa. In between the two Dvarapalakas on the northern entrance, there is a small courtyard of four feet square, one foot lower than the Chenpakaraman Mandapa, where the crude method of ordeal 'Kaimukku' was conducted for many centuries. 'Kaimukku' was a method of testing the innocence of a suspected offender by dipping his hand into the boiling ghee and the legand says that if his hand was taken out unhurt, his innocence was proved.

On the western side of the Chenpakarama Mandapa is the Veera Pandiya Mani Mandapa built, by about AD 1334 - a 89 ft. by 5' 3" rectangular hall.

We enter into the Vadakkedam of the temple from the Vira Pandiya Mani Mandapa to the north of which is the Kalasapura Udayamarthanda Mandapam called after Udaya Marthanda Varma. Through western door way of this Mandapa, we enter into the Rishapa Mandapa at the centre of which lies a Nandi, facing the deity of the sanctum sanctorum.

Sanctum Sanctorum : To the west of Nandi, there is a small passage and at the end of the corridor, we can see the 'Sthanumalayamoorthy'. The garbhagriha presents the 'Sivalinga', which is about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. Walking a pradakstana of the garbhagriha Vadakkadam, we reach a narrow passage proceeding westwards. There are three small shrines of 'Durga', Ganapathi' and 'Sankaranarayana' respectively. Before the garbagriha, is a huge hall with the image of "Vishnu".

At the south west of the first prahara, we find the old image of Vishnu in the reclining form (i.e. Ananthasayanam pose). A few yards of this is the shrine of Sucheendraperumal with Uma Devi near by.

After having a darshan of "Chandekeswarar" we enter near the Nataraja shrine which remind us of the Lord at Chidambaram. A plinth surface of the Gopura base presents numerous panels each presenting the sculputre of Gods, Goddesses of a puranic theme. The famous sculptures are the 'Lingodbhavamurthi', 'Dakshinamurthuy', 'Javaradevamurthi', 'Gazharamurthi' 'Trivikrame', 'Garuda Narayana', 'Parasakthi' in the viswarupa form, 'Surya', 'Chandra', 'Uma Maheswara' and 'Vishnu'. All these images are beautifully carved in the stone. Both the Saivites and Vaishnavites hold this temple in the highest esteem.

The architecture of the different structures in the temple shows the features prevalent in those various epochs. A remarkable feature of the Suchindrum temple is its compactness. Although the shrines within the temple are well over thirty in number, they are all situated within easy reach of each other. The total area of the temple is about 93,900 sq.ft. The length of the northern outer wall is 402' - 10 " and the western wall is 233 ft. and four inches.

There is a huge temple tank-its area being equal to the area of the ground plan of the temple. In the Tamil month of Chithirai (April-May) floating festival takes place on the 10th night of the Utsava.

Festivals : Three grand festivals are conducted at Suchindrum every year - Markazhi (December - January) Chithirai (April-May) and Avani (September-October) Utsavas. The rites and ceremonies internal and external present a strange combination of Tamil and Malayala traditions.

Important Features of Suchindrum : The earliest nucleus of the temple was the shrine of 'Konnai Adinathar'. 'Indra' worshipped the Swayampulingam of the Trinity and became pure here. On the eastern side of the Chenpakaraman Mandapa, stone beams are carved in the pattern of wooden rafters. In Alankara Mandapa, the musical pillars are exquisitely carved out of monoliths into columns. Each yields a musical note being different from one another.

This temple is a treasure house of various types of sculptures, which belong to different periods. Natural scenery, floral designs, animals and birds, human figures, portraits of kings and eminent personalities, Gods and Goddesses could be seen in this temple.

Before the portico of the Subramanyaswamy koil, we see two yalis. Inside the half opened mouth of yali attached to the pillar, is seen a well-rounded stone ball which can be touched by inserting hand into yali's mouth. Though it seems that the ball is small enough to be taken out, it is impossible to do so.

Some rare features of sculptural works could also be witnessed here. *The feminine form of "Ganesa" known as "Ganesani"* [96] at Chenpakarama Mandapa, Jwaradevar at the Gopura base, Neelakanta Vinayakar with his consort on his lap and the figure of Parthasarathi with three faces of Trimurthis delivering message of Gita and the image of Anjaneya are among them .

Mural paintings in the temple are confined to the inner walls of the Gopura. This painting appears to have been of a high quality. There is a mural painting above the entrance of Udaya Marthanda Mandapa from the Northern Sribalipura.

The Rathosthavam or Therottam of the Suchindrum temple is a colourful one. The Thiruvathirai festival in the Tamil month of Markazhi (December—January) is a Mahotsava celebrated in a grand scale. In Chithirai (April-May) Utsava, Amman Ther which comes round the street along with other two small Rathas, attracts people all over the district.

The great temple of Suchindrum is one of the store houses of the specimens of the Dravidian art and architecture. This temple is held in high esteem by pilgrims from far and near.

Poet laureate Desika Vinayagam Pillai described Suchindrum thus,

> *" தொன்னகரம் ஆன சுசிந்தைச் சிறப்பெல்லாம்*
> *என்னொரு நாவால் எடுத்துரைக்க ஏலாதே."*

The Travancore State Bank (a Nationalised Bank), a post office, a Police Station, a Primary Co-operative Bank, a dairy farm, a Higher Secondary School, Electricity Board Office, a Devaswam Board Office, one Panchayat Office, one private Ayurveda Hospital, one cinema theatre are also functioning here.[97]

THADIKKARANKONAM (Thovalai taluk - Population 5184 - M.2579 + F.2605)[98] : Thadikkarankonam, situated at a distance of 18 km. from Nagercoil on the Nagercoil–Balamore road, is a hilly place in the Arumanalloor village of the Thovala taluk. On account of its hilly nature, human habitation is found scattered here.

Most of the people are agricultural labourers employed as coolies in the neighbouring estates. Besides a Roman Catholic Church, there is an orphanage run by the Jahova Mission. There is also a traveller's bungalow in the village. There is a siphon functioning in the Thovala channel. The water flowing at a level of 200.05 feet above sea level in the Thovala channel from the Kodayar project is taken over to the other side at a height of 199.64 feet across a road and the Thadamayar river. This is discussed in greater detail, in the chapter under the caption "Agriculture and Irrigation. "

One Middle School, one Primary School and one Christian Mission School Orphanage are the educational institutions found here. Panchayat office and a police station at Keeriparai are the Government offices functioning in this locality.

THALLAKULAM (Kalkulam taluk - Population 17,739 - M.8945 + F.8794) : Thallakulam is a hamlet in the Kalkulam taluk, about five km. from the Monday Market-Thallakulam branch road. This place is historically important, since it is the birth place of the great revolutionary leader Dalawai Veluthambi, the then Dewan of Travancore who rose against the British. His ancient home once destroyed by the British has been rebuilt by his nephews, in which some of this personal belongings and the weapons used by him in the war against the British are kept. The role of Dalawai Veluthambi, has been discussed in greater detail in the chapter titled "History".

Pottery making is a famous industry in this village.The pottery of this place noted for its durability and workmanship find a good market in Kerala State.

THAZHAKUDI (Thovala taluk - Population 7663 - M.3819 + F.3844): This is one of the biggest villages in the Thovala taluk and occupies an area of about 1 ½ sq.miles. This lies eight km. from Nagercoil. There is a very famous temple here dedicated to Avvaiyar the legendary Tamil poetess. Another temple dedicated to "Azhakamman" is also found here.

Majority of the villagers are engaged in agriculture. Like Thallakulam, this village is also famous for its pottery. A number of families are engaged in pottery making and Potters Co-operative society is functioning to promote their interest. There is one Government Higher Secondary School and a Primary School and a Community Centre run by the Adi Dravida and Welfare Department for the uplift of Adi-dravidas. An Agricultural Mortgage Bank and Co-operative Milk Supply Society are the other institutions functioning in this village. There is also one Maternity Centre. The village is administered by a Town Panchayat, the office of which is located at Thazhakudy itself. Besides a post office is also functioninig here. The village is served with good communication facilities.

THENGAPATTANAM (Vilavancode taluk - hamlet of Painkulam Rev. Village which has a population of 22,522 - M.11,482 + F.11,040): Thengapattanam situated on the west coast near Pynkulam village in Vilavancode taluk is a place of historical importance. It is 35 km. from Nagercoil and 12 km. from Kuzhithurai. As coconuts are abundant in this place, this might have derived this name (coconut-thengai). It is also probable that this name was given to the place, as a result of its being the centre of Thenganad ruled over by members of Ay dynasty.

This village had, in ancient times, trade relations with foreign countries like Arabia.[99] There was direct cargo boat service between Thengapattanam and other foreign maritime towns. Copra, dry fish, coir and shark fin were the main products that were exported.

Some Arab merchants who came here found it suitable for their trade. These Arab merchants, with the Co-operation of the then ruler of Travancore built several mosques for the propagation of Islam, The mosque at Thengapattanam, it is said, was built about 1200 years ago.[100] The site on which the mosque stands is known as "Sastham Parambu" and according to the information furnished by the local people, there was a Sastha temple on the same site before the mosque was built.

The trade here now is in copra, dried fish and coir. Dry fish and shark fins are exported to Singapore. The Nadars, who form the major section of the population mostly labourers and tillers of the soil whereas the Muslims are engaged in trade of all kinds. The Paravas at the coastal areas take to fishing and collection of sea-shells. All are, engaged in retting coconut husks and coir making. Small canoes ply from Poovar in the Kerala state to Thengapattanam, a distance of 16 km. along the A.V.M. Channel.

A post office, a Government dispensary and an agricultural bank are a few Government institutions that are set up to help the poeple of this locality. This place is well connected with important places like Nagercoil and Trivandrum by regular bus services.

The A.V.M. canal constructed by King Ananda Marthanda Varma in commemoration of the coronation of Queen Victoria runs through the heart of the village. About three kilometres to the north of Thengapattanam is a village called Amsi which has a High School, Co-operative Societies, Government Khadi Centre and an Ambar Chakra Centre.

THIRUPATHISARAM (Thovalai taluk - Population 3489 - M.1760 + F.1729): Thirupathisaram is on the main road that leads to Aralvoimozhi and is about five kilometres from Nagercoil. It is famous for its ancient temple dedicated to Sri Thiruvazhimarban. The temple is one of the 108 shrines sacred to the Vaishnavites in India and one among the thirteen Devyasthalams of erstwhile Malainad. The great Vaishnavite saint Nammalvar of the 9th century AD had glorified this place and its Lord in his verse as –

> "Vanparisarathu Iruntha en
> Thiruvalelmarbar."[101]

The place has attained its supreme glory by the birth of the reputed saint Nammalvar. While inscriptions found in the temple mention the name of the village as *"Thiruppathisaram"*, the Vaishnavite works invariably call it *"Thiruwanparisaram"*. For this name is a traditional story according to which King Kulasekhara of the 8th century AD had lost his favourite horse, while marching back to his capital, after conquering many neighbouring countries. After a vigorous search, he found the horse grazing on the banks of Somatheertha. This place was then called "Thiruvamparisaram" ("pari" in Tamil means "horse").[102]

The Lord of this place called "Thiruvalmarbar" means the Lord who holds Goddess Lakshmi on his chest. Here there is no separate shrine to the Goddess Lakshmi. Of the festivals celebrated here, the Adi Swathi celebration is considered to be the most important. The annual festival is conducted in the Tamil month "Chithrai" for ten days.[103]

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of this place. The State Seed Farm located here supplies quality seeds to agriculturists through its depots in the different panchayat union blocks. This is discussed in depth in the chapter titled "Agriculture and Irrigation." Near Thirupathisaram, in Therikkalpudur, is a tile factory which produces fine tiles.

THIRUVATTAR (Kalkulam taḻuk - Population 23,492 - M.11,897 + F.11,595): 'Thiruvattar' is a village in Kalkulam taluk and stands on the banks of the river Thiruvattar amidst of picturesque scenery. It is about 11 kilometres north of Thuckalay on the Nagercoil- Kulasekaram road. The head quarters of the panchayat union is here. It derives its name as it is situated on the banks of a river which encircles the town on three sides (vattam means circle in Tamil) and has been described as "Valanir Vattaru" by poet Mankudikolar in verse 396 of Purananuru, an old Tamil anthology. Nammazhwar describes this as "Valamikka Vattarai"[104] The temple at Thiruvattar is dedicated to 'Adikesava Perumal' in the Ananthasayanam posture and is considered one of the 13 sacred places for Vaishnavas.[105] It is a place of great antiquity. The Purananuru of the Sangam works refers to Thiruvattar, as the seat of Eliniadan famous for his patronage of men of letters. Though it is said that the Adikesava temple at Thiruvattar was in existence more than 1100 years the inscriptions found in the temple fix its age to the 12th century.

The God Adikesavaperumal of this temple is believed to have been worshipped by Chandra and Parasurama. Nammalvar has sung several hymns in praise of Adikesavaperumal. In the 16th century, Sir Krishna Chaithanya of Bengal visited Thiruvattar and wrote "Sri Brahma Samhita", an outstanding contribution to Hindu philosophy. The temple is situated on a high platform. The image in the central shrine is a Sayanamurthi stretched out on his commodious serpent bed and bears a close resemblance to the deity in the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple at Trivandrum.

The Sthalapurana adds that Kesan the head strong Asura, on account of the boon that he would remain immortal, was playing havoc in the world. The inhabitants of the world approached Lord Vishnu for redress. The Lord with his commander Adisesha came to the world to protect the sufferers. In Thiruvattar, Ananda encircled kesa in his gigantic coils, formed a bed for his Lord. The above story baptised the Lord as Kesava. The title Adi prefixed to his name indicates the ancient origin of

the shrine. The belief is that if Adikesava changes his posture, Kesa will reappear in the world and adharma would prevail everywhere.

The temple is noted for its exquisite workmanship in stone and wood. The striking example is the *"Ottakkal Mandapam"* which is a huge piece of granite slab measuring 18 feet square and three feet in thickness cut out of rock placed in front of the main colol. Round the prakara, there are 222 images of female lamp bearers commonly known as *"Deepa Lakshmis"* hewn on the pillars. The features of these lamp bearers vary from pillar to pillar in the mode of dressing and hair style. The life-like statue of Lakshmana, Indirajith, Venugopal, Sakthi and Nataraja with Vishnu and Brahma having musical insturments on either side of the Balipeeta mandapa are rarely to be found elsewhere. Rati and Manmatha are beautifully represented here. Every statue is carved on a pillar, which contains several impressive figures of theological and artistic importance. The ideal of Shri Adikesava, it is said, is made of Kadusarkarayogam - a compound of lime and granite covered with a paste of molasses and mustard.

The *'Ottakal Mandapam'* in the temple was erected by the Travancore King, Vira Ravi Varma about 1603-1607.[106] Remains of old mural paintings belonging to a period not later than the 17th century are seen on the walls of the inner shrine. Wood carving of exquisite worksmanship adorn some of the structures in the temple. It is interesting to note that one of the Travancore Kings, Aditya Varma had composed ten verses in Sanskrit called 'Avathara dasakam' in praise of the deity of the temple.

An old palace building found here has been converted into tourist bunglow. A Sub-Registrar's office, a Post Office and a Police Station are located here in addition to the forest offices. The people are mostly cultivators and businessmen. Jaggery and fibre produced here are exported to Kerala. Coconut groves are also in plenty here.

THIRUVITHANCODE (Kalkulam taluk - Population 18,644 - M.9388 + F.9256) : Thiruvithancode is southwest of Padmanabhapuram. The name of this village was derived from Sreevazhumcode which means that the place where the Goddess of Prosperity resides. It was also the capital of Venad for sometime. The State of Travancore was named after this place. Ruins of an old fortress can still be seen here. A pillar edict of the Travancore ruler Ravi Varma, was located at Thiruvithancode and removed to the museum at Padmanabhapuram. The edict of the pillar

proclaims the abolition of the iniquitous social customs such as slavery prevailing at that time. The date of the proclamation had been fixed at 1696-97.

Besides the above, one can see two mosques, a Roman Catholic Church, a Jocobite Syrian Church and a Hindu temple here. The inhabitants of the village is mostly Mohammadans who are engaged in business with various important trading centres in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The place is noted for manufacture of brass and copper vessels as well as mats from palmyrah leaves.

The Muslim Educational Society founded in 1981, has started a co-education college in Thiruvithancode in 1981 in the name of "Muslims Arts & Science college".

THOOTHOOR (Vilavancode taluk - hamlet of Ezhudesam Rev. village which has a population of 30,570 - M.15430 + F.15140): It is a coastal village situated at a distance of five km. from Thengapattinam and 18 km. from Kuzhithurai. It is in the revenue village of Ezhudesam and within the jurisdiction of the Munchirai panchayat union. Majority of the people in the village belong to the fisher folk. There are a few Co-operative Societies to promote the interests of the fishermen. The Department of Fisheries also helps the fishermen by way of providing yarn for nets. Shark liver oil extraction is also being carried out in a small scale. A Screwpine unit under the administrative control of the Munchirai panchayat union is functioning since 1958. The screwpine plants (Thozha and Kaitha) required for the industry are available in plenty on either side of AVM canal as well as in the coastal villages. Fancy articles such as mats, handbags, belts, pillows, bonnets, etc., are made out of screwpine leaves. A big church and convent are built on the sea-shore. There is also a High School at this place. One Government hospital, a branch post office and three recreation centres are located here. A bridge constructed over the AVM canal connects the coastal villages with the rest of the block area. This place is connected by bus routes.

St. Jude's College is a Co-education institution, here, which was started in the year 1980-81 by Latin Catholic Fishermen Education Society.

THUCKALAY (Kalkulam taluk - Population 25,605 - M.12,974 + F.12,631): Thuckalay is the headquarters of the Kalkulam taluk and is about 16 km. from Nagercoil on the Cape-Trivandrum Highways Road.

This is within the Padmanabhapuram municipality. The palace is just two kilometres from Thuckalay. Thuckalay is connected by road with almost all important places in the district.

Public offices and institutions like the 'Subordinate Judges Court, the Munsif Courts, the First Class Magistrates,Court, the office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Taluk Office, Sub- Treasury, Police Station, Sub-Jail, Sub-Registrar's office, Income Tax Office, the Government Hospital, the Government High School, Adi dravidar Hostel and the Amala Government High School for girls with a boarding run by the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel (whose headquarters is Ernakulam) are located here. Branches of a few banks like Canara Bank and Indian Overseas Bank are also situated here.

The Christian Monastery attached to the Roman Catholic Church at this place was started in 1913. In this monastery, Christians entering priesthood are given training.

Peer Mohamed Durgha[107] : There is a durgha named 'Peer Mohamed Oliyullah Durgha' at Thuckalay named after the great philosopher Mohamed Appa, who was born in Tenkasi of Tirunelveli District. After spending sometime in spiritual pursuits in Peermedu of Kerala State he came and stayed at Thuckalay. Being a Tamil poet of great eminence, he wrote many books on philosophy. He had intimate relationship with the Kings of Chera dynasty. It is said that he laid foundation stone for the Padmanabhapuram Granite Fort.

The Anniversary of the great philosopher poet is celebrated every year on a grand scale on the full moon day in the month of Rajap. Both the people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu attend the celebrations in large numbers irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. The anniversary day is declared as a local holiday for the district.

THIRUPPARAPPU WATER FALLS (Thirupparappu village which has a population of 7,804 - M.4009 + F.3795) : The Kodayar makes its descend at Thirupparappu and the water fall at this place is about 13 km. from Pechiparai dam on the Kulasekaram- Thirupparappu road and is almost 13 kms. from Kuzhithurai (via) Kuzhithurai - Alanchola road.

The river bed is rocky and about 300 feet in length. The water falls from a height of nearly 50 feet and the water flows for about seven months in a year. The whole bed above the falls is one rocky mass which

Peer Muhammad Durga, Thuckalay

Water falls - Thirupparappu

extends upto a distance of about quarter of a kilometre upstream where the famous Thirupparappu weir has been constructed for supplying water to the paddy fields. On either side of the river, on the left bank of the river in between the water falls and the weir, there is a temple dedicated to Siva enclosed by a strong fortification.[108] The green hills and valley and the coconut groves and the green paddy fields and gardens and the rubber plantations, all around the falls present a picturesque view.

The river Thamiraparani which emanates from the western ghats flows on the east in Tirunelveli district and west in Kanniyakumari district. The river which flows in Kanniyakumari district is called 'Kuzhithurai River' by the people. Like the Cauvery which falls from the rocks of Hogenakkal in Dharmapurai district, the Thirupparappu falls also flows from rocks. These rocks are spectacular in sight and feast to the eyes of the pilgrims and tourists.

In Thirupparappu is found a Siva temple known as Thirupparappu Mahadevar temple which is one of the famous 12 Siva temples of this district. This temple is facing west and the principal deity is called 'Veerabadrar'. The tradition goes to say that after destroying 'Thakkan', to cool His head, Lord Siva selected this beautiful place to take rest and as the Nandi was unable to look at His angry face, he side tracked to the north side and that is why Mahadeva is facing west instead of east.

Situated in an one and half acres of land, this temple has two prakaras. In the first, it is said that there is a tunnel which leads to the falls, On the one side of the Mantapa is the Goddess Ambal and on the other the Vinayaka. In the second prakara are the Krishna and Muruga.

The Siva temple was very famous during the 13th century BC. People thronged this temple from all over the places. Several inscriptions are found here, one of which states,[109]

> "For success, happiness, wealth and prosperity of the country Lord Siva whose abode is this, takes the responsibility."

UDAYAGIRI FORT : Udayagiri Fort is situated near the Padmanabhapuram Fort on the Trivandrum-Nagercoil highways road at Puliyoorkurichy, which was the most important military station of the Travancore rulers, when they were having Padmanabhapuram as their capital. It is about 14 km. from Nagercoil and two km. from Thuckalay and Padmanabhapuram. Preliminary notification has been issued to declare it

a national monument.[110] It is built of massive granite blocks around an isolated hillock, 260 feet high enclosing an area of almost 90 acres. It was renovated about the year AD 1600. This fort was said to have been destroyed by Raja Raja Chola.[111]

The fort was rebuilt in the reign of Marthandavarma, the Venad King, during 1741-44. Under the supervision of De Lannoy, the Belgian General, who served as the Chief of the Travancore army; East India Company's troops were stationed there till the middle of the 19th century. Foundary for the manufacture of guns, mortars and cannon balls were also established within the fort under the supervision of the General.[112]

In the early days, the fort was of strategic importance. Prisoners captured in the campaign against Tippu were confined in this fort for sometime. In 1810, the East India Company's army under Colonel St. Leger marched into the Travancore State through the Aramboly Pass to quell a rebellion under the leadership of Velu Thambi Dalavai. The fort was captured. Colonel Welsh, was in his *"Military Reminiscences"* has recorded that there were 100 guns in the fort, besides 50,000 stand of arms. It is further said that a brass gun 16 ft. long bored as a 22 pounder, found in the fort could not be removed even for a few yards by a large number of people, even with the help of 16 elephants. The Company's troops were stationed there, till about the middle of the 19th century.

De Lannoy, who served Marthanda Varma loyally for 37 years and who was responsible for training his men in modern warfare, lived in the fort with his family for several years, where he died on the Ist June, 1777 at the age of 62. His body was buried within the fort and chapel was built on the spot where his body was buried. De Lannoy's tomb in the fort is marked out, by a stone cross planted at the top, with inscription in both Latin and Tamil. On the tomb stone are engraved the designs of trumpets, and bugles. De Lannoy's wife and son were also buried by his side.

In the south-west corner of the fort is a traveller's bungalow, facing the highways road. There is also a camp shed near the traveller's bungalow in the fort. A few metres away from the traveller's bungalow, an old Roman Catholic Church built on the rock could be seen. On the same rock in front of the church, there is a spring, the origin of which is attributed to one Devasagayam Pillai, who was an officer in the Padmanabhapuram fort. Devasagayam Pillai, a close friend of De Lannoy, was converted to christianity under the influence of the great General.

As this was not liked by the Travancore ruler, he persuaded him to give up Christianity but in no vain. It is said that Devasagayam Pillai during his imprisonment worked a miracle. He hit the rock at this place with his elbow, when water gushed out from the rock. The rock is now called 'Muttidichanparai' ((*முட்டிடிச்சான் பாறை*). [113]

A village has come up in front of the fort. The people who live here, are mostly agriculturists. A few of them are engaged in trade. Pottery making is the chief industry among a section of the people. There is a match and starch factory at this place which offers employment to the people of the locality. There is an industrial workshop which manufactures iron safes, steel almirahs, cash boxes, boilers, steel trunks, jaggery boiling plants, paddy boilers, rocks, agricultural implements, lemon grass oil, etc. A branch Post Office is located by the side of the traveller's bungalow, A P.W.D. rest house with two suits is available here.[114]

VADESSERY (Population 5067): It is a part of Nagercoil town. It is also a weaving centre noted for the manufacture of textiles of very fine quality. The place is famous for the Kanakamoolam market, which is the biggest in the district. This daily market is popularly known as "Vadassery Public market". About 10,000 people assemble here daily, for the purchase and sale of vegetables and fruits. It is noted for the sale of cattle especially plough buffaloes. Plantain fruits of all varieties are sold here and exported to Trivandrum, Quilon and other places in Kerala State. It is also a busy trading centre for timber, brass and copper vessels, iron goods, furniture, coir products, mats etc., There are several handloom co-operative societies and few oil mills are also located here.

VALVACHAGOSTAM (Kalkulam taluk - Population 30,883 - M.15,829 + F.15,054) : Valvachagostam is situated about two km. from Kottathurai on the Nagercoil-Trivandrum road. The origin of the name of this place is connected with "Parasurama". The popular legend that Kerala (the land between Gokurnam and Kanniyakumari) which was recovered from the sea was known as Parasuramakshetram (the land of Parasurama). Parasurama who had killed his mother Renuka to satisfy the wishes of his father Jamadagni, wanted his sin to be expiated and sought the advice of the learned Brahmins who suggested that he should quit the territory and do penance in Himalayas in order to save his soul from perdiction.[115] Accordingly, he started for the Himalayas but left his Parasu (axe) at a place which later on came to be known as Parasuvakkal (in the Neyyantinkara of the Kerala State). Similarly, he left his sword at this

village which was latter called Valvachagoshtam (Goshtam - temple). Later, a Chera King is said to have constructed a big temple at this place dedicated to the *'Goddess Bhaghavathi'* whose sword is supposed to be that of Parasurama. This temple which was patronized by the Chera king is of great antiquity and is held in very high esteem. The Perumal kings of ancient Travancore are said to have visited this temple for worship, before their coronation took place

The Goddess of the temple is in the form of *'Mahishasura Mardani'*.[116] The important annual festival is held in Vaikasi (May-June) and attended by a large number of people from all parts of the district.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of this village. There is a High School at Kattathurai about two km. to the north of the village on the highways road and another at Palliyadi three km. into the interior. The village forms part of the Valvachagoshtam panchayat area.

VATTAKOTTAI (Agasthiswaram taluk): Vattakottai, a granite fort six kilometres north-east of Kanniyakumari cape, forms the terminal of a line of ramparts known as the South Travancore lines built by Marthanda Varma to serve as defence for Nanjil Nadu.[117] It is rectangular in shape and covers an area of about three and a half acres. The fort is enclosed by walls 25 to 26 feet high, including the parapet, 29 feet thick at the front, 18 feet at the corners and 6 feet at the rear. The portion running into the area is the most strongly built under the orders of De Lannoy during the reign of Marthandavarma (1729-58). About 1810 A.D. the British forces under the command of St. Leger marched into Nanjinad through the Aramboly pass and demolished the defence lines. The small river by the side of the fort, and the green vegetation all around add to the scenery of the fort and has now become a holiday resort and picinic centre. Outside the fort on the shore one could witness the enthralling spiralled serpant like coconut tree which is unique in shape.

It is said that there is a subway or tunnel about four feet width, supposed to connect the Padmanabhapuram palace. Now the tunnel has been closed.On the northern side of the fort is found a slope to bring the canon from the lower to the upper part of the parapet of the fort. There is a well of about 6'diametre. The whole wall around the fort is repaired and fresh morter is being applied.

Literary or epigraphical evidences are not in store to know much about Vattakkotai. However, from the evidences left by the fort itself, it

Spiralling Coconut tree at Vattakottai near
Kanniyakumari

may be presumed that this fort was the military base to protect the Kumari port which was a rich pearl harbour. Since the emblem of the Pandya Kings was *'Fish'* and we find this emblem in some of the places of the fort, it can be safely concluded that the Pandya Kings had control over this fort for sometime.[118]

Next to Vattakottai, we can see the traces of a light house in Leepuram being called so after Colonel Lee who had destroyed most of the Kadukkarai Kanniyakumari Fort in 1806. This is a picnic spot, the sea is calm and suitable for bathing.

In Mahendragiri, the Indian Space Research Organisation has been commissioned in the year 1986.

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75. *Ibid.*
76. S.Padmanabhan, *Kumari Mavatta Kovilgal*, p.53 - 54
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(e) *Census of India,* 1981, Part XIII A & B, p. 15

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GLOSSARY

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2. Ahasthya	..	The dwarf Sage referred to in the Hindu Mythology. Author of the *'Agasthyam'* a Tamil grammar work which is not available.
3. Anai	..	Dam
4. Anjal	..	The post, The mail
5. Anusuya	..	Wife of the Sage Athri (Hindu Mythology)
6. Archakar	..	Temple Priest
7. Aruvi	..	Water fall
8. Bala Kshetra	..	Children's Home (creche)
9. Bharatha Natya	..	A South Indian classical dance
10. Dalawai	..	An honourable and powerful post in the Government of the erstwhile Travancore Kings (equal to Commander or Chief Minister)
11. Devasvom	..	Department of Religious Endowments
12. Desobakari	..	One who works for the welfare of the Nation.
13. Devi Kumari	..	Virgin Goddess (Also in Tamil - Kanniyakumari - The village Kanniyakumari - the District has been named after that)
14. Dravidian	..	The Maior South Indian race
15. Ezhuthani	..	Old writing instrument, style
16. Ganesani	..	Feminine form of Lord Ganesa
17. Garbagriha	..	Sanctum Sanctorum
18. Hundi	..	A negotiable instrument.

19. Hundi Merchant	..	Dealer in *Hundis*
20. Hundial Vyaparam	..	Hundial Trade
21. Jenmam	..	Birth right (in relation to the inheritance of property in ersthwile Travancore State)
22. Jenmi	..	Holder of such rights
23. Kadai	..	Shop
24. Kaivilakku	..	Held in hand
25. Kaimukku	..	An ordeal in the ersthwile Travancore State (A suspect would be asked to immerse his hands in the boiling ghee and he was considered innocent if he was unhurt.)
26. Kalaimagal	..	Goddess of Education (Hindu Mythology) As Minerva in Rome and Athena in Greece.
27. Kalkandu	..	Crystalised sugar
28. Karyakar	..	Secretary - One who is incharge of an assignment
29. Kavi Amuthu	..	Nectar of Poems
30. Keralotpathi	..	A Malayalam work
31. Kerala Mahatmiyam	..	A Sanskrit work
32. Kelvis	..	An administrative division of erstwhile Travancore State corresponds to modern taluk
33. Kumkumam	..	Vermillion
34. Kurinji	..	One of the five divisions of lands suggested in the Tamil Literature; Mountains and its surroundings or Hilly Regions. (*Mullai* - Forest and its surroundings or pastoral lands *Marutham* - Cultivable lands and its surroundings

	Neythal - Coastal regions and its surroundings
	Palai - Deserts)
35. Lemuria .	A continent supposed to have formerly extended from Madagascar to Sri Lanka, India and Malay Islands, from the Permien to the end of the Miocene geological period.
36. Mahamahobadhyaya ..	A title to a distinguished scholar in Sanskrit learning.
37. Manram ..	A hall. Also the highest court of justice in ancient Tamilnadu.
38. Namasakara Mandaba..	Prayer Hall
39. Nataka Salai ..	Auditorium where dramas were usually performed (in Padmanabhapuram Palace)
40. Needhi Sastram ..	Texts and Philosophy which teach Morals
41. Nool Nilayam ..	Library
42. Onam ..	An annual Festival in Kerala observed in the month of August.
43. Ootasavam ..	Festival
44. Pagoda ..	Sacred buildings, especially tower of Pyramidal form in India, China, etc.
45. Panar ..	Instrumentalist singer of ancient Tamil Nadu
46. Parasu Rama ..	A Mythological Person who according to the Keralorpathi reclamied the entrire Travancore State, out of sea.
47. Pial Schools ..	Schools which were run in ancient and medieval South India in the Platform shaped portion (or pial or thinnai) of the teacher's residence
48. Proverthy ..	Village

49. Sasta	..	Lord Ayyappa,the son of Siva and Vishnu (Hindu Mythology)
50. Sastri	..	An oriental title
51. Sathangai	..	A string of small bells worn in the ankles by the dancers
52. Sisu Bhavan	..	Children's Home (Creche)
53. Siddha	..	An indigenous system of medicine in Tamil Nadu
54. Sreepatham	..	Divine feet of Kanniyakumari Amman
55. Sudar	..	Flame
56. Theeviravathi	..	Extremist
57. Thenkural	..	voice from South
58. Thiruvalluvar	..	Author of the *Thirukkural*
59. Tholkappiar	..	Author of *Tholkappiam,* - a Tamil grammar work.
60. Unchal Mandapa	..	A hall where swings were fixed in Padhmanabhapuram palace.
61. Upadhyaya	..	A title in the study of Sanskrit Literature. Also a teacher.
62. Vasantha Mandapa	..	A hall or room in Palace or house.
63. Vazhipadu	..	Worship
64. Valli	..	One of the two consorts of Lord Muruga (Hindu Mythology)
65. Vidwan	..	A title in the study of Sanskrit and Tamil Lietrature.
66. Viswarupa	..	Lord Vishnu's Colossal posture, His feet and head being infinite. (Hindu Mythology)
67. Vyaparam	..	Trade

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